

# WOMEN'S MISSION RENEWAL PROJECT KICKS OFF

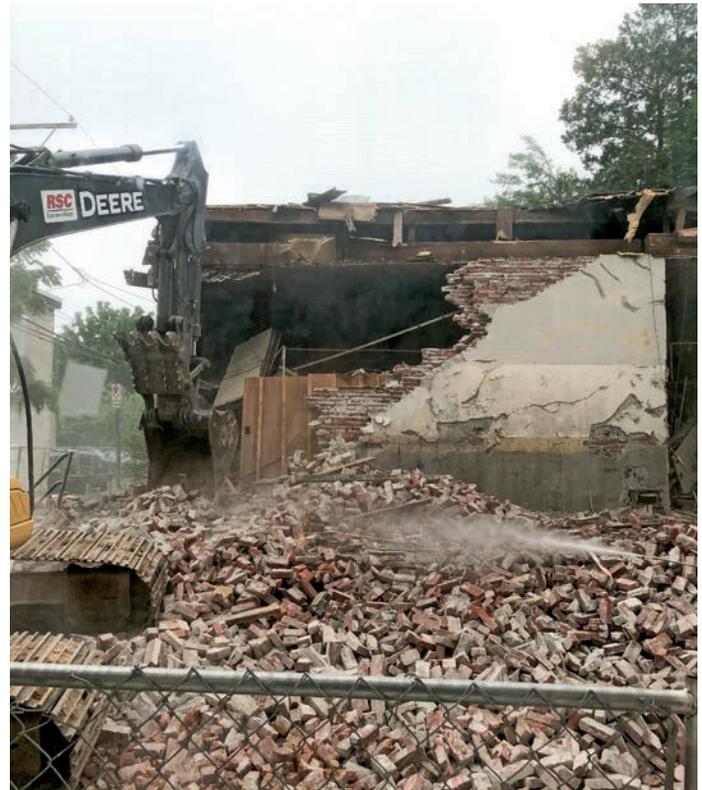
On Monday, June 15, Bethesda Women's Mission Renewal Project kicked off. Bethesda Staff, Board Members, representatives from Pyramid Construction, and reporters from local media gathered for the event. Staff and Board got the chance to take a shot at the building with golden sledgehammers.

Later in the week, Pyramid Construction demolished the Annex building to make room for the new facility. A video of the kickoff and demolition is available on our Facebook page.

The total amount raised is now \$3.9 million. We still need to raise about \$200,000. The current timeline for the remainder of the project, which is subject to change, is the new facility construction completed by spring 2021 and the entire project completed summer 2021.



*Follow along on our website and Facebook page for construction and fundraising updates.*



# ALICIA'S STORY

By Jessica Henry, Communications Specialist

As we plan and fundraise for the Women's Mission Renewal Project, it's important to remember the *why* behind it. I'm excited to share Alicia's story with you because she is one of the many women who have been given a place to heal and belong at the Women's Mission. This new building is vital because there are many women out there like Alicia who need to experience Life Recovery.

It's difficult not to think of Alicia without smiling, and when you say her name an actual laugh of love erupts. Staff describe Alicia as having a wonderful sense of humor. She is funny, kind, generous, and set in doing things her way. Her love for the Lord is uncanny—she reads her bible almost non-stop. Once you get her talking about Jesus, you're in for the long-haul of hearing her until every thought has been said.

It wasn't always that way. When she first came to the Mission she had been emotionally frozen due to the death of her only daughter. She was very quiet, lonely, and filled with anxiety. The more you talked with her, the more she shared that Jesus was the only reason she was still living.

Alicia grew up with an alcoholic and abusive father. She has shared about ingrained memories of her sister and herself trying to protect their mother while she was cowering down to avoid his fist. When Alicia was at a crucial young age of 5, both her parents died in a car accident. Alicia moved in with her paternal grandmother, but she said that she felt very alone.

Substance abuse began at a very young age and escalated from alcohol to marijuana to hard drugs all by the age of 17. The men in her life often enabled her drug habit as she endured years of abuse from them that resulted in her experiencing numerous overdoses and seizures. She witnessed several of those men die, too, from drug overdoses. She gave birth at a very young age, and the father of her child died several years later of a drug overdose.

From there she went to a women's shelter in Pottsville. "I was afraid of God at that point," she said. "I thought he would destroy my whole life." It took a while to heal from her marriage and the ideas he had put in her head.



Alicia (R) and her counselor, Marla (L).

Eventually, she accepted Jesus and a relationship with the Lord and experienced immense peace. **"For the first ten months I would either be in church or reading my bible," Alicia said. "I walked really closely with God."**

"After that I got bored or tired of doing the next right thing, and I got in a relationship with a man from Philadelphia. A year later he was shot and died, which was really hard because I really cared for him and I thought that I loved him," she said.

After that Alicia found herself in and out of jail and rehabs. Despite that, she said she **"always knew Jesus and the intimacy I had with Him I would never find anywhere else."**

Alicia heard about Bethesda Women's Mission through a friend who was a former guest. Alicia's name was on the waiting list for 6 months. She said she called and talked to Saran Tucker, our intake counselor, once a month because she knew how badly she needed to come here. "I was just hoping and praying," she said.

A space opened up and Alicia came to the Women's Mission in February 2019. The first couple of months were a big adjustment getting used to the structure of our program.

"All the ladies here have done so much to help me," Alicia said.

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## Alicia's Story (continued)

**"Alicia is a worshiper,"** Alicia's counselor, Marla, said. She has become less anxious, less fearful, and more at peace. **The healing that she's experienced and growing closer with the Lord are two of the best things that have happened.**

Through the pandemic and quarantine, Alicia has been able to dig deep and grow in her relationship with Jesus. "As you do step work, you begin to see that every area of your life is unmanageable on your own," Marla said. **"Therefore, Jesus needs to be in every part of our lives. I think that's where Alicia is now and she'll be ready to go on her own."**

From here, Alicia's plans are to move out on her own, stay clean and sober, and attend meetings and church. Our staff looks forward to having her come back as a mentor to current guests.



## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

### Community Center Cleaning Crews

- Needed to clean Community Center building after program hours

### Community Center Maintenance Manager

- Oversee and work with a crew to complete outside and inside maintenance tasks such as lawn mowing, snow removal, trash collection/removal, floor cleaning/waxing
- Work with team of other volunteers to ensure tasks are completed properly and when needed

*More information and application available at [BethesdaMission.org/take-action/volunteer](https://BethesdaMission.org/take-action/volunteer).*

### Outreach Drivers/Warehouse Help

- In need of both CDL and non-CDL drivers for pickups and drop offs
- Monday through Friday 8 am – 12 pm

### Donation Center Workers

- Needed to greet and help people who come to drop off donations at our Donation Center weekdays between 10 am – 4 pm



## STORIES OF HOPE

Thank you to everyone who watched our virtual Celebration Banquet on September 17! If you missed the event or would like to re-watch the inspiring testimonies that were shared, visit [BethesdaMission.org/Stories-of-Hope](https://BethesdaMission.org/Stories-of-Hope).

# MISSION NEEDS

Please drop off all donations at  
611 Reily Street, Harrisburg, PA. Thank you!

Visit [smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) Gifts & Wish Lists to view and purchase additional items.

<p><b>Men's Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawn Mower (Gas-powered, push)</li> <li>• Bleach</li> <li>• Plastic trash bags (13 gal. and 30 gal.)</li> <li>• Silverware</li> <li>• Steel-toed Work boots (sizes 9.5 – 11.5)</li> <li>• Sneakers (sizes 9.5 – 11.5)</li> <li>• Shaving Razors</li> <li>• Shaving cream (small cans)</li> <li>• Padlocks with keys for lockers</li> <li>• Toilet paper</li> <li>• Paper towels</li> <li>• Clorox wipes</li> <li>• Ensure Nutritional Drink</li> <li>• Walmart gift cards for above items</li> </ul>	<p><b>Food Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #10 Cans of Vegetables</li> <li>• Frozen Vegetables</li> <li>• Ground beef, Pork, Fish</li> <li>• Oil</li> <li>• Butter</li> <li>• Sugar</li> <li>• Hot Sauce</li> <li>• BBQ Sauce</li> <li>• Sliced bread</li> <li>• Trash Bags</li> <li>• Disposable Gloves</li> <li>• Napkins</li> <li>• Cleaner (Multipurpose, Glass, Floor, Oven)</li> <li>• Utility Carts</li> <li>• Aprons</li> <li>• 12 oz. Bowls</li> <li>• Metal fan, 3 speed, 16" or 20"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Center</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Supplies</li> <li>• Book Bags</li> <li>• Uniforms</li> <li>• Board games (new)</li> <li>• Xbox1</li> <li>• Wii U</li> <li>• Nerf guns</li> <li>• Earphones</li> <li>• Gift cards</li> <li>• Commercial Keurig machine</li> <li>• For Real Milkshake Machine</li> <li>• Portable Soccer Nets</li> <li>• Soccer Balls</li> <li>• Dodge Balls</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medical Clinic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alka Seltzer Cold Medication</li> <li>• Allergy Medication</li> <li>• Anti-Fungal Cream</li> <li>• Bacitracin/Triple Antibiotic Cream/Neosporin</li> <li>• Cough Drops – Regular and Sugar Free</li> <li>• DayQuil Cold Medication</li> <li>• Hand Sanitizer (Individual size)</li> <li>• Hydrocortisone Cream</li> <li>• Ibuprofen 200mg</li> <li>• Instant Cold Packs</li> <li>• Instant Hot Packs</li> <li>• Kleenex (large boxes)</li> <li>• Multivitamins</li> <li>• Muscle Rub</li> <li>• Naproxen 220mg</li> <li>• PeptoBismol Tablets</li> <li>• Saline Nasal Spray</li> <li>• Shoe Insoles</li> <li>• Sinus Congestion Medication</li> <li>• Toe-nail clippers</li> <li>• Tums</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dental Clinic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrogen peroxide 1.5% - 2% mouth rinse</li> <li>• Polident adhesive for dentures</li> <li>• Individually packaged toothbrushes (soft)</li> <li>• Travel-sized non-alcoholic mouthwash</li> <li>• Dental pics</li> <li>• Dental floss/ Flossers</li> <li>• Denture cases</li> <li>• Toothbrush holders (travel)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mobile Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweatshirts and pants (M, L, XL)</li> <li>• Jeans (Waist Size 32, 34, 36, 38, 40)</li> <li>• Underwear (S, M, L, XL)</li> <li>• T-shirts</li> <li>• Candles</li> <li>• Sterno</li> <li>• Deodorant (men and women)</li> <li>• Flashlights</li> </ul>	<p><b>Trinity House (Transitional Living)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat—1 to 2 pound packages</li> <li>• Cleaning supplies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Women's Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twin Comforter Sets</li> <li>• Twin Sheet sets (Flat and Fitted)</li> <li>• Gallon size zip lock bags</li> <li>• Large clear plastic storage bins</li> <li>• Paper products</li> <li>• Hand Sanitizer/Wipes</li> <li>• Underwear (all sizes)</li> <li>• Stamps</li> <li>• Fresh Fruit</li> </ul>		<p><b>Outreach (Warehouse)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination Hand Pump and Electric Stacker (\$2,500)</li> <li>• Semi-Electric Pallet Jack (\$2,000)</li> <li>• Donation to repair forklift (\$4,500)</li> <li>• Graphic wrap for box truck (\$3,600)</li> <li>• General equipment upgrades and repairs (\$2,500)</li> <li>• General funds for repairs to walk-in freezer and cooler (\$1,000)</li> </ul>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Food Drive

November 2 – December 16

@ Bethesda Men's Shelter, M&T Bank Branches, Dauphin County Libraries (Harrisburg Locations), Sharp Shopper Middletown

Giving Tuesday - December 1

It is with sadness that we have made the decision to **cancel** Christmas at Italian Lake 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. We plan to hold an even bigger and better celebration in December 2021.

More information available at [BethesdaMission.org/Events](https://BethesdaMission.org/Events)  
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