

# Empowering Female Leaders of Tomorrow!



Bernadette's House Annual Report  
2022

[www.bernadetteshouse.org](http://www.bernadetteshouse.org)

From the Desk of Dr. Andrea L. Cohen,  
*Vice President of External Affairs and Acting President, Board of Directors*



To all the loyal friends and volunteers of Bernadette's House,

As we all began to emerge from our homes at the beginning of 2022, we found ourselves in a world that had many new rules and standards, in terms of how to approach in-person programming and interactions with others. Some of our interpersonal communication skills were a bit rusty, and the new year brought many changes to our beloved organization.

The loss of our physical location at 306 Montgomery Street was an especially painful decision to make in January, as we had been successful in meeting our financial obligations on the property despite having no in-person programming at the facility through 2020 and 2021. This was thanks to the generous donations of all our supporters, and the willingness of our volunteers to pivot into hybrid fundraising activities. We also had great success using virtual platforms throughout the pandemic and innovated in several key areas with the development of our WBGR Radio Show and Girls Rising Webinar series. Moving on from 2021, 2022 found us facing new challenges, which we approached with enthusiasm and hope for the future of the organization.

Although 2022 led to many changes in leadership in Bernadette's House, the implementation of our new Hybrid Mentoring Program has been pivotal and will enable us to bring our vital services to the pre-teen and teen girls in our area. Our two summer programs (STEM and Brains and Beauty) were very successful and introduced Bernadette's House to many new girls, who are now enrolled in our programming.

I am excited to embark on 2023 in a new role with the organization, and grateful to everyone for helping us get to this point of renewal and innovation. We hope that you will join us in the many activities that we are planning for the upcoming year!

With appreciation,  
Andie Cohen  
Vice President

From the Desk of Carol F. Nash,  
*Founder/CEO*



Dear BH Family and Friends,

As these strange times seem to be coming to an end, I am humbled and grateful for all we have accomplished together despite the challenges. Looking back on 2022, I was saddened by the closing of 306 Montgomery Street. I was amazed at how a small, determined staff valiantly met this moment, ensuring that Bernadette's House continued to serve and our students still received programs that would empower them to become community leaders. The year was one of pivoting in many areas, from programs to staffing. After losing many key board members, Dr. Andrea "Andie" Cohen stepped up to become Acting President and lead those committed to our community to move on to fulfill our goals and strategic plan of the organization.

We enhanced our curriculum online and in person. Increased partnerships with outside organizations and enriched our Academies and social skills through virtual workshops and classes. We are grateful to the **Woman's Club of Laurel** for allowing us to use their facility to continue our in-person service to the community. SciTech2U partnered with BH for the first time to bring fun, stimulating, innovative STEM education using experiential learning to engage and enrich any girl with a passion for STEM. These programs were open to the community.

We also partnered with Front Step Mentoring in Philadelphia, PA, to create relationships outside the local area that nurture human connections and offer diverse experience exposure. Lastly, we joined MENTOR Maryland | DC, a national organization whose mission is to fuel the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships for Maryland and DC's young people to close the mentoring gap and provide the resources needed to make an impact. Now more than ever, it is critical that our girls continue to develop self-worth, self-confidence, and self-trust so that they may **Believe in themselves and the world they live in**, embrace life challenges to **Blossom** into strong leaders, and commit to excel in all areas of life to **Soar into tomorrow!**

In a more "typical" year, most of our finances would come from our private donors. Still, with the help of fundraisers and continued contributions from the private sector, including our legislators, we ensured that no student was turned away because of financial challenges. We cannot continue to do this and could not have done it without so many who stepped up and have become our heroes. Many thanks to our incredible Board of Directors, and a shout out to all our donors, alumni, and friends who continue to be there for Bernadette's House.

Our future is bright as we increase our Board Member numbers, pursue Government support to expand our programs, and seek a permanent home for our girls to experience a sense of community and sisterhood.

All the best for the New Year,

Carol Nash

Founder | CEO

## Mission

Our Mission is to provide a safe and supportive environment for young girls to explore their purpose in life.

## Vision

Bernadette's House was created to help young girls Believe, Blossom, and Soar!

## Our Core Values

*Trustworthiness* and ethical behavior are required in the organization;  
*Respect* for all children regardless of race and background;  
*Excellence* and a standard of honesty and integrity in all we do;  
*Believe* that with nurturing and proper training, children will Soar;  
*Compassion* - we preserve dignity by showing concern for each situation;  
*Citizenship* modeling social responsibility in all that we do.

Our Board of Directors (as of December 31, 2022)

**Executive Board**

Carol Nash, *Executive Director*

Dr. Andrea Cohen, Acting Board President

Dr. Katherine Bricker, Board Secretary

**Directors**

Celeste Cummings

Dr. Gayle Lomax

Cynthia Rankin

**Honorary Members**

Dr. Grace Saunders Dr. Yaphet Bryant Ms. Nancy Lilly Ms. Marianna Carter Ms. Janice Wright
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## Core Program Descriptions for 2023

Service is an integral part of our community life. Through efforts of online and in-person webinars and workshops, cultural outings, homework help, and other activities, our holistic, evidence-based programs allow the participant to *Engage, Expose & Expand* in every community. We accomplish this through creative ideas and effective and efficient management of resources.

*We at Bernadette's House recognize the need for concern and safety for all participating in our programs. In 2023, our virtual and in-person programs will continue to comply with safety measures recommended by CDC and local governments. We continued to serve our community by using other platforms for providing services and engaging our families. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we PIVOT and return to in-person services.*

[We are pleased to introduce our NEW Hybrid Mentoring Program & more!](#)

### Bernadette's Blossoms

#### Our virtual and in-person mentoring program for girls.

The BH mentoring program empowers BH Girls to use social and life skills to increase confidence and self-esteem as they become the leaders of tomorrow. This program involves matching each girl 1:1 with a volunteer mentor who meets with her mentee weekly to engage in educational and empowering conversations and activities that promote self-empowerment and positive identity. Bernadette's House will also provide a safe physical and virtual space for mentees to communicate while mentors provide guidance and encourage them to be the best versions of themselves. Our holistic approach addresses meeting the mentee's academic, physical, mental, and emotional needs.

BH has partnered with Front-Step, Inc., A girls' mentoring group in Philadelphia, which will connect with Bernadette's House online as we open our services to support our girls and parents with the tools to empower our youth.

BH has also established an agreement with Sci-Tech, Inc. to ensure that our girls remain up-to-date and knowledgeable in science (STEM.)

## Girls Rising Webinars

### Monthly programming that equips girls for leadership

The Girls Rising Webinar Program offers monthly virtual workshops for members to engage with guest speakers on various topics that impact girls. These workshops are available to members at no cost but are open to all. *Members must attend a minimum of 6 programs per year.*



*Our girls enjoy a close relationship with each other using technology.*

## BH Village

### A holistic approach to helping families grow and learn together.

The Village is a series of monthly guest speaker workshops online and in person to address topics relevant to young girls' socio-emotional and physical development. Bernadette's House will launch BH Village with the year-long mentoring program to provide **BH families with mentors**, resources, and a space to expand their knowledge about raising happy and healthy children.



*It takes a village to raise a child.*

## The Year in Review

We continue to design programs that foster the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In early 2022, the BH Board of Directors permanently closed the 306 Montgomery Street facility. Funding was at an all-time low, and the facility drained the organization of its limited resources. We did hold our summer camp in 2022 at the Woman's Club in Laurel (and we're grateful for their support), while we used the time to reorganize and build the team. We implemented a Donor Management/Volunteer Coordinator position which was critical for consistent communication with our supporters. Even today, that decision has proved valuable as we continue to recuperate from COVID-19.

**Dr. Andrea Cohen**, VP of External Affairs, stepped up to become our Acting Board President and led the organization to take the next steps as we pivoted to continue to provide services to the underserved. As we welcome our new Board members, we would also like to bid farewell to those who need to step down and wish them well during the year. In December, Dr. Cohen was offered the full-time Board President position, which she will take on beginning ***March 1st, 2023***.

**BH held its Ninth Annual Retreat (BH Pivots)** at Magadia Consulting, Inc.'s Silver Spring, MD offices. Owner Magdalena Gebrekriatos offered in-kind services to BH and provided lunch from her minority-owned and operated restaurant in Laurel, MD. A significant monetary and clothing donation was also presented at the retreat. BH would like to thank Magdalena for her ongoing support during our time of Pivoting. It is community leaders like Magdalena that allow us to continue to move forward.



The following timeline describes our significant accomplishments:

January 2022	<p>BOD closes the doors of 306 Montgomery Street</p> <p>Giant Gives Back Program supports BH with community donations</p>
February 2022	<p>Carol receives an invitation to continue to serve on the Mayor's Education Advisory Committee</p>
March 2022	<p>Board Meeting</p>
April 2022	<p>Board Meeting &amp; BH Board and Brush Fundraiser</p>
May 2022	<p>BH joins Mentor Maryland   DC</p>
June 2022	<p>Last Board Meeting before the summer break</p> <p>BH is once again approved for participation in the CFC enterprise</p>
July 2022	<p>BH and SciTech2U sign MOU</p> <p>BH hosts "Mid-Summer Cool Down" at the Laurel Women's Club</p>
August 2022	<p>BH Launches Brains &amp; Beauty Summer Camp (includes STEM)</p> <p>BH partners with Mary Kay, SciTech2U, and PNC Bank to create and empower an energizing, rewarding summer program for our girls</p>
September 2022	<p>Board Meeting</p>
October 2022	<p>8<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Retreat Hosted by Magadia and Love Life Cafe</p>
November 2022	<p>BH participates in giving Tuesday and raises over \$2,000 to help offset the cost of mentor programming</p> <p>BH is represented at three in-person CFC events</p>
December 2022	<p>BH Launches the new Hybrid Mentoring Program</p> <p>First Mentor Meet and Match at the Laurel Woman's Club</p>

<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Front Step in Pennsylvania collaborates with BH to provide online mentoring workshops for their young ladies</p> <p>Front Step and BHGirls travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the African American Museum in Washington, DC</p> <p>Membership Committee formed to manage Mentors/Mentees</p>
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Throughout COVID-19, BH continued to serve the community. Our Friends, Donors, and Alumnae were no less active in participating in our virtual events and programs. Joining our webinars and participating in our limited back-to-in-person events. We would like to thank **Margo Stoll** and Steve Coons for their continued and unwavering support in producing our newsletter, which keeps the entire community informed.

We seek outside funding to continue providing holistic, affordable mentoring programs and special events like Keeping Our Youth Safe. These programs are open to all and continue to provide much-needed services to laurel and the broader communities we serve.



*BH Girls Brains and Beauty Summer Camp Program.*

On December 16th, Bernadette’s House held a meet-and-match event at the Laurel Women’s Club where our volunteer mentors and the girls in our program met and learned about each other via a fun ‘speed dating’ kind of event. We also did line dancing and played some musical chairs while enjoying light refreshments. On Saturday, we met with our Philly “sistas” for a cultural experience at the African American Museum of Art and then for dinner and a lesson on dining-out etiquette.

Thanks again to our dedicated mentors for their commitment to helping our girls Believe, Blossom, and Soar!



### Financial Plan (Financial report available upon request).

Bernadette's House is committed to protecting and using our assets for our nonprofit Mission. Proper financial practices are critical since using best practices helps prevent and detect fraud. Best practices also assure our donors that we use their gifts for their intended purposes. We are pleased with the consistent financial oversight of Trinity Financial Services (Ms. Eboni Charley).

### 2023 Strategic Goals

1. Quality Programs
2. Sustainability
3. Exceptional Human Capital
4. Growth

### Bernadette's House 2022 Strategic Partners

2022 - 2023 Significant Contributors

Amazon

Alco Pharmacy

Love Life Cafe

Laurel Woman's Club



Moving forward, Bernadette's House is committed to serving our youth. We hope to return to our After School Time Programs in the Fall of 2023.

### Helpful Resources

*In addition to traditional achievement measures such as GPA and test scores, social and cultural capital need to be considered. While quantitative measures often label these students below benchmarks, this study highlights how social and cultural capital are assets to be nurtured and facilitated.*

<https://ojed.org/index.php/jise/article/view/3458>

1 Article Credit: <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/afterschool-programs/benefits-youth-families-and-communities>

## This Work Needs Your Help!

*Your Donation Is More Important Than Ever Before!*

Donations by mail may be mailed to:

Bernadette's House  
14625 Baltimore Ave., Suite 171  
Laurel, MD 20707

*Volunteer and Make a Difference!*

Not everyone can make a financial contribution, but everyone can make a difference.

- Volunteer to be a mentor
- Volunteer in the office to make phone calls to our community stakeholders
- Volunteer to become a board member.

Please visit our website, [www.bernadetteshouse.org](http://www.bernadetteshouse.org), to learn more, call the office at 301-578-5157.

## Our Wish List

- Purchase of a house in 2023, with a makeover by HGTV • Laptop computers
- A 12-seat passenger van to transport program participants

## Advocacy Matters

We intend to become fully engaged in efforts to demonstrate to our community that Bernadette's House is a resource to improve at-risk girls and their families lives. "Raise Your Voice for Girls' by telling us your concerns and joining the many women who are determined to make a difference in the lives of the girls who are Tomorrow's women and future leaders. Please follow our Advocacy program on our website: [www.bernadetteshouse.org](http://www.bernadetteshouse.org).

## Looking Forward

### *Finance:*

We expect to increase funding by 10% through grants and online donations to expand unrestricted funds.

### *Programs:*

We hope to expand our services to include more underserved areas in 2023 and return to our After-School-Time Program.

*I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*

– John 17:4



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