

Empowering  
Female Leaders  
of



Tomorrow!

# Bernadette's House Annual Report 2020

306 Montgomery Street  
Laurel, Maryland 20707

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



From the Desk of Dr. Paula Cage,  
*Board of Directors President*

As the Board President of Bernadette's House, I am delighted to be a part of such an organization that has the hearts of others at its core. At our retreat, we focused on being innovative, aggressive, and consistent and as we embark on a new year. I thank you for your constant support and dedication. We have grown exponentially. Our fundraising, events, and small grant procurement efforts and rewards have increased, and the organization has become tighter than ever. We continue to work through the ramifications of COVID-19, yet we have seen God's grace and confirmation as we do the work. In addition to the impacts of COVID-19, we witnessed a time of social and political unrest; however, we used it to engage our girls and the community. Through it all, we had the pleasure of seeing the first female of color *Believe, Blossom, and Soar* as she took office in the White House as the Vice President of the United States. There is no stopping us now! I am ecstatic about the new Board of Directors and the team of volunteers we have put together. They are on fire and willingly share their gifts and talents to expand the work of the organization.

As you read this report, you will see that there is a lot worth celebrating. It will show you how essential our work is and how much we rely on each other to make it happen. As we continue to unite and do the job, we create far more of an impact.

As we embark on this new year, I am excited about the future and the foundation we have put into place. I am thankful for the many people that embrace the organization. Lastly, I am hopeful that we will continue to do great things for our girls and the community.

Dr. Paula Cage

***Dr. Paula Cage***  
**Board President**



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

Looking back on 2020, I see a new norm. It was a year that took us all by surprise. On March 16, 2020, Bernadette's House closed the doors to our facility, and what we thought would just a few weeks turned into one full year!

Some will remember COVID-19 as a deadly virus that took many lives and made some of us take a close look at ourselves and appreciate all that God has done for us. During this time, like many, I was forced to slow down and smell the roses. I learned that there were many things I could do without. I read more, prayed more, did some writing, and yes, unfortunately, I ate more! I did drive-by graduations, birthday parties. I even attended a drive-by wedding shower. I learned to participate in church online, and most of all, I realized what was important and what was not!

At Bernadette's House, we learned to do business differently! We took our programs online and became ZOOM MASTERS. Business meetings were scheduled online, and webinars become the norm. We laughed a lot, as some of us learned to become more technically oriented to reach our youth. We also cried a lot as we learned of friends and loved ones lost to the virus. We will never forget the year 2020 when God stopped the world and made us all take a closer look at life. COVID-19 became the enemy.

Today, I am grateful for the lessons learned and the blessings of paying the bills and not having to shut our doors. Now more than ever, I know that the work that we do is critical. Our children have practically missed an entire year of their academic and social education, and we have much work to do!

Thank you to all that helped us reopen our doors with your generosity and support over the past year. We will continue our work in the community. As an organization, I believe we stand more vital than ever and ready to help our girls Believe, Blossom and SOAR.

***Carol***

# 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 is 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 blossom
- **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, 2020) **Executive Board**

Carol Nash, *Executive Director*

Dr. Paula Cage, *Current President*

Andrea Cohen, *VP External Affairs*

\*Kaila Randolph, *VP Internal Affairs,*

\*Jayson J. Green, *Secretary*

\*Anaé Goodwin, *Treasurer*

## Directors

**Celeste Cummings**

**Monet Clements**

## Honorary Members

Dr. Grace Saunders

Dr. Yaphet Bryant

Ms. Nancy Lilly

Ms. Marianna Carter

Ms. Janice Wright

## Core Program Descriptions for 2021

Our evidence-based programs allow the participant to *Engage, Expose & Expand* in every community. We accomplish this through effective and efficient management of resources.

***We at Bernadette's House recognize the need for concern and safety for all those who participate in our programs. In 2020, we temporarily closed our facility 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. We thank you in advance for your continued patience and support. God willing, we will reopen early in 2021.***

### **House Talk for Teens**

A weekly radio live stream, which is an inspiration show focused on empowering today's youth to be classy, forward thinking, and focused on God. The show, produced by WBGR and J.Finn Visions, is hosted by Bernadette's House, airs each Wednesday at 10:30 AM EST with guests and a particular segment dedicated to parents each month.

### **Parenting 101**

Parenting 101 is a program offered that gives parents a forum to learn and discuss the art of parenting. The program will be promoted by TABLE TALK for TEENS weekly show. Parents will be encouraged to write in their questions and join us for a monthly zoom meeting for discussion and expert advice led by our team psychologist and therapist. Once opened, Parents will be invited to join us for dinner to resume live talks.

### **GIRLS RISING/Home After School/Remote Learning Center**

Our on-site Remote Learning Center drop-off program and virtual After School and Special Day Mentoring Program operate concurrently with the Prince George's Public School Hybrid Program. Monday through Friday and on special days. Program aides and tutors are assigned to work with students to help them manage their academic challenges and life skills to become powerful learners. Also, students participate in activities designed

to increase their confidence, self-esteem, etiquette, and life skills. Parent involvement is fundamental to our program's success, and we offer relevant seminars, parenting skills workshops, group discussions, and individual one-on-one sessions designed to meet their needs as well. Operating our program is a team effort. Volunteer staff, parents, and other community stakeholders work together to provide a homelike setting where girls feel safe, accepted, successful, and energized. Please call us or visit our website for more information on our programs. [www.bernadetteshouse.org](http://www.bernadetteshouse.org)



*Our House enjoys a close relationship with each other.*

#### 4 Bernadette's House, Inc. The Year in Review

We continue to design programs that foster the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. On March 16, 2020, COVID-19 forced Bernadette's House to shut its doors. What we thought would be a two-week temporary closing turned out to be an entire year. This stay-at-home mandate from the government was devastating for all of us, both financially and emotionally. The team scrambled to understand precisely how to respond to such chaos and continue to meet our families' needs. Thanks to our Learning Lab "dream team," we were able to react quickly to our BHGirls by taking our programs online. We provided math tutoring, girl talk, and bible study four days a week. Though we missed the social time of playing Uno and other personal one-on-one contacts, we remained in touch with one another and finished the year strong.

We did not hold our summer camp in 2020 but instead used the time to reorganize and build the team. We implemented a Donor Management/Volunteer Coordinator position which we thought was critical for consistent communication with our supporters. We selected and

welcomed Tina Sthrothers as the manager and we, invested in Network for Good, a software program that we felt was the best option to meet our needs.

Andie Cohen, VP of External Affairs, took our Guiding Star Seal to another level. We now proudly display the Platinum seal and renewed CFC logo on all of our communications. With Andie's oversight and Robin Edward's leadership, our excellent fundraising team raised funds that helped sustain us during the year. THANK YOU, TEAM!

As we welcome our new Board members, we would also like to bid farewell and thank you to Teresa Ramsey, Vivian Pugh, Tamme Witerker

The following timeline describes our significant accomplishments:

January 2020	Carol Goes to the US Capitol to advocate for BHGirls
February 2020	Carol is appointed to serve on the Mayor's Education Advisory Committee.  Carol interviewed by CTV
March 2020	Lottery raffle
April 2020	
May 2020	LMD gives BH a Facelift
June 2020	
July 2020	Fundraiser-Keto with Malica
August 2020	Talks begin to develop a BH in Nigeria, Africa  BH Goes Platinum  Fundraiser-Paint and Sip with Kirsten
September 2020	Monet Clements becomes Host of "House Talk for Teens."  J.Finn of Jfinn Visions becomes Internal Producer  Fundraiser -Caribbean jerk chicken and music



October 2020	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Retreat  Fundraiser-Silent Auction
November 2020	Fundraiser- Pasta with Wendy
December 2020	BH partners with A. Lopez and LMD to host a community Christmas gift drive-by give-away  Fundraiser-Desserts with Melissa

Neal Buck returned as our Graphic Artist, and Ricki Proctor came on board as Webmaster to manage our website.

Monica Green, MPA, returned as Program Operations Administrator

JFinn of JFinnVisions became Internal Producer for HTFT Talkshow

With the continued support of LMD, May 1, 2020, BH got a facelift. Bernadette's House rebranded and embraced new colors, logo, and tagline! Thank you, LMD.

The mayor appointed Carol to a two-year term to serve on the Education Advisory Committee.

Bernadette's House partnered with Angelique Lopez and LMD to host a free community Christmas Give-away event with holiday gifts, hot cocoa, cookies, and hot apple cider. All had a great time.

Despite COVID-19, BH continued to serve the community. We would like to thank **Margo Stoll** for her continued support in producing our newsletter, which keeps the community informed.

In August of 2020, Carol met with Dr. Rhonda Bellos and discussed building a Bernadette's House in Nigeria. Those discussions are on-going

February 2020 Carol interviewed by CTV

We continue to seek outside funding to continue to provide our holistic, affordable mentoring programs, as well as our special events programs, such as Keeping Our Youth Safe. These programs are open to all and continue to provide much-needed services to the Laurel and broader communities that we serve.



*BH Girls decorate the House for the holidays*

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**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 in doing this since using best practices helps prevent and detect fraud. Best practices also assure our donors that we use their gifts for their intended purposes.

## 2021 Goals

### 2020 Goal Review

- Radio Show, Parenting 101, Girls Rising  
SMART Goals
- House/Capital-the organization will raise \$250,000 to purchase a property by January 1, 2022.
- Using the organization's business model, the organization will have a responsible and accountable program director for each core program implemented in 2021.
- Girls/Families/Volunteers- the directors will put systems in place to accurately track evidence-based data and submit their data monthly to the executive committee in 2021.
- BH Store- the organization will create and implement an online store by May 2021.

## Bernadette's House Strategic Partners

- Virtual Assistance by Anita
- Lionarts, LLC
- Transitional Zone, Inc.
- Yurick Video Services of Columbia, Maryland
- People for Change Coalition, Inc.
- Maryland Women's Heritage Center
- JEM Engineering

AICO Pharmacy

- LMD

A Special **Farewell to Nancy Lilly and JEM ENGINEERING** has been financially supporting since its beginning in 2013. Thank you for believing in our vision and helping us sustain the Mission for all these years. We love and appreciate you.

Farewell to Malica Ahmad – Who has faithfully served as a Mentor and Friend of BHGirls for over seven years.

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## Bernadette's House in the News

- *New York Times* (November 8, 2015, *Giving* Section)
- Encore Org
- Global Policy TV
- Carol Nash Press Release
- Carol Nash, *Seattle Times* (April 13, 2016, *Active Living* section) • A Mentoring Program for Girls 10-17 in Laurel, MD. (2017, *YouTube*)
- Bernadette's House – Keeping Our Youth Safe Conference (*Laurel Community Spotlight*, May 25, 2017)
- *Laurel Leader* (Girl Power)
- *Meet the Author* (Carol Nash talks about her new children's

book) Visit our website for more information

The Today Show with Maria Sh



*House Talk for Teens became a way to reach our youth during the Pandemic*

## Program Promotes Character Building and Civility Among Youth



*Effective afterschool programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families, and communities. Afterschool programs can boost academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe, structured environment for working parents' children.*

**Moving forward, Bernadette's House is committed to serving our youth.**

*Tanks for reading,*

Carol Nash

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

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**This Work Needs Your Help!**



*Your Donation Is More Important  
Then Ever Before!*

*Carol goes to US Capitol to Advocate for the BHGirls*

Donations by mail can be made to:

Bernadette's House  
14625 Baltimore Ave.  
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 an instructor

Please visit our website at [www.bernadetteshouse.org](http://www.bernadetteshouse.org) to learn more, call the office at (410) 707-2420 or send this form by mail to our office at 306 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Name Phone

Address

Email (if applicable)

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## Our Wish List

- Purchase of our new rented House in 2022, with a makeover by HGTV • Laptop computers
- A 12-passenger van and driver
- Video/Radio equipment

## 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 5% through grants and online donations to

expand unrestricted funds.

*Programs:*

We hope to expand our services to underserved areas.

*Notable Upcoming Events:*

Fundraisers: 2021

May 1, 2021. – Girls Tea

Movie Night

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

– John 17:4





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house empowering female  
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