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

As the new 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. I am also inspired by the overwhelming number of people who also believe in the mission and vision of the organization and willingly lend a helping hand. It is because of the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of our great staff, mentors, volunteers, and community partners that the organization continues to Believe, Blossom, and Soar. I am ecstatic about the new Board of Directors. 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 deeply important our work is and how much we rely on each other to make it happen. As we continue to unite and do the work, we create far more of an impact.

As we embark into 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

From the Desk of Yaphet Bryant, PhD,
Board of Directors Former Interim President

As the outgoing Interim President, of the Board of Directors for Bernadette’s House, I thank you for your consistent support and dedication. Over the course of the year, we have grown exponentially. Our fundraising, events, and small grant procurement efforts and rewards have increased and a new cadre of girls are benefiting from our program.

I am so grateful to have had the position as servant leader; it was a pleasure and a privilege to serve. I have transitioned to full board and committee activities, as we move into the next level of excellence to help girls Believe, Blossom, and Soar! I am confident as I pass the baton. I am still in the race with all of our dedicated staff, volunteers, mentors, board members, and our inspiring madam CEO/founder. The program achievements of 2018 are reflection of all of the hard work and dedication of all. Many thanks!

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

Moving into 2019 was an exhilarating feeling. Bernadette’s House (BH) is now in its sixth year and to date we have served countless young ladies and their families in and around the Laurel area. Under the leadership of Dr. Yaphet Bryant (Interim President 2017–18), BH settled into its new space and seamlessly continued its vital work.

As our Home After School (HAS) program has grown, so has our staff. We currently have over 30 volunteers who make our programs happen every day. As always, we continuously evaluate our programs based on identified community needs.

Many of our children (particularly in the County) struggle with their academics. While most schools require students to access information online, many have no internet access, nor the human resources, once they leave school. In response to this matter, last year, Bernadette’s House opened its Learning Lab, which is now open 5 days a week and staffed by professionals.

Recently appointed by the Mayor to serve on the City of Laurel’s Education Advisory Committee, I will continue to work hard to help identify solutions for our youth’s academic concerns.

Typically, young children participate in afterschool programs for the enrichment opportunities, as well as to satisfy their family’s childcare needs while parents are at work. However, as children enter adolescence, the immediate need for child care is diminished, and there can be the perception that afterschool programs are no longer needed or appropriate. As a result, an astonishing number of young people are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. These are the peak hours when juveniles are at-risk for criminal behavior and experimentation with drugs and sex. Despite the need, no federal program specifically targets afterschool programming for the older youth population. Due to limited funding, local communities have been forced to make difficult choices about how to use afterschool resources, often leaving youth home alone and with few other viable options. Our position has always been that older students need mentoring, enrichment, and guidance in a positive social environment.

It has always been our goal to continue to run an affordable program and in 2019, Thanks to all of you, we were able to meet this goal without cutting our services. Moving forward, we thank each of you for your continued support.

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

Our Vision
To help girls Believe, Blossom and Soar!

Our Board of Directors (as of December 31, 2018)

Executive Board
Carol Nash, Executive Director
Dr. Paula Cage, Current President
Dr. Yaphet Bryant, Interim President
Stacey Williamson, VP, External Affairs
VP, Internal Affairs (Vacant)
Ullanda Young, Secretary
Teresa Ramsey, Treasurer

Directors
Amanda Ford
Beverly Byron, RN
Dr. Andrea Cohen
Celeste Cummings
Vivian Pugh
LaTarsha Morrison
Tamme Whitaker

Honorary Members
Dr. Grace Saunders
Nancy Lilly
Janice Wright
Marianna Carter
Core Program Descriptions

Our evidence-based programs are designed to Engage, Expose & Expand girls in every community. We accomplish this through effective and efficient management of resources.

Home After School Mentoring Program (HAS) *(Membership)*

The program runs concurrently with the school year, Monday through Friday from 2:30–6:30 p.m. Program aides from neighboring high schools are assigned to work with students to help them manage their homework and encourage them to become powerful learners. Each girl is assigned a mentor who is committed to serving for one year. In addition, students participate weekly in activities designed to increase their confidence and self-esteem, etiquette, and life skills. Our community bible study is also open to both boys and girls. Parental involvement is fundamental to the success of our program, and we offer relevant seminars, workshops, group discussions, and individual one-on-one sessions, designed to meet their needs, as well.

DEBS for Christ: Community Scholarship Program *(Application)*

Open to any HS girl 16–17 years of age.

Just for Me: An Early Intervention Program

Our signature eight-week workshop for girls in the community. In response to Prince George’s County Public Schools’ initiative to adopt a school, this year we are excited to partner with a local school to bring girls into BH for this exciting program.

Summer Mentoring Program

Open to 8 to 14-year-old girls who reside in and around Laurel, MD. This affordable summer program is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

*Our House enjoys a close relationship with each other.*
The Year in Review

We continue to design programs that foster the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This will enable the girls to make life choices that will have a positive impact on their future. With so many of our children doing poorly in school, we made the decision to add a Learning Lab (LL) to our curriculum. We added seven refurbished computers with parental controls and two printers. Miles Calabresi, MA became our LL Leader Guide with a volunteer staff of six, the guidelines were established, and the program implemented. We became a member of TechSoup, a non-profit tech support company to help maintain our equipment and purchased the software (Study Island) a self-learning product that allows each girl to move at her own grade level and pace.

The all-volunteer lab is open from 5:00–6:30 p.m. each day to encourage our girls to move beyond their academic expectations.

This year, we implemented an evidence-based practice of tracking homework assignments and progress reports. We put an acknowledgment and reward system in place to honor young ladies that exceeded expectations. This year’s SOAR award went to S. Cardona.

We also recognized that while academics are important, we needed to continue to provide our young ladies with excellent social and life skills as well as exposing them to substantive outside activities. With the help of our program directors, we incorporated these components into our program. Taking time to actively socialize (games and sports, outside activities), as well as getting chores done in “the house,” is an integral part of our daily schedule.

We implemented a new behavior policy which holds children, as well as parents, to a new standard of excellence. Our zero tolerance for bullying policy clearly outlines the consequences for bullying in “The House.”

With the help of our volunteer community, we successfully matched our new girls with mentors for the school year.

We continue to seek outside funding in order 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 which we serve.

Our 5th Annual Retreat was held in October, 2018. Our theme this year was “Supporting the Vision.” We spent some time reviewing and celebrating all that we had accomplished over the last year. We were reminded that our goal is to continue to thrive as an organization by being intentional in supporting our vision. Dr. Bryant challenged the Board to be open and receptive.
as we focused on how to financially support Bernadette’s House. We are grateful to Jane and Tony Buscemi for donating her beach house to the organization. It was a perfect setting.

As we welcome our New Board President, Dr. Paula Cage, we would like to thank Dr. Yaphet Bryant for her dedication to “The House” as we sought a permanent President.

We would also like to welcome new Board Directors: LaTarsha Morrison, Stacey Williamson, Teresa Ramsey, and Tamme Whitaker, and thank our previous Directors for their unrelenting support.

In 2018, Bernadette’s House was privileged to partner with LMD who provided our girls with a new lounge.

Lastly, 2018 positioned BH to stabilize the organization as we moved toward the purchase of 306 Montgomery Street.

The following timeline describes our major accomplishments:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>BH Welcomes its first new BHG Kennedi Mickles into the House</td>
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<td>Carol Nash introduces her 1st children’s book “Christmas with Papa and Momuski”</td>
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<td>BH hosts its first Winter White Tea and Me Time</td>
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<td>BH Girls attend 4th Annual Wonen’s Legislative briefing with Mentor Malica Fleming</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Costumes distributed by dance instructor Claire Cohen in preparation for recital</td>
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<td>Black History Tea with Guest Poet Janice Wright</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Newspaper article in Laurel Leader, “Bernadette’s House, a Place for Girls to Grow”</td>
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<td>BH Girls attend “Every Girl Can” Conference at Montgomery College</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>BH participates in City of Laurel’s Open House</td>
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<td>Second Community Debutante Ball</td>
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<td>Girls attend Museum of the Bible</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>BH Girls audition for play, “A string of Pearls”</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Dance Recital with Claire Cohen</td>
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<td>BH Girls perform in play, “A String of Pearls” with original cast for U Street Playhouse</td>
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<td>Annual Awards</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Art Around the World Summer Program begins</td>
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<td>BH Summer Camp certified by the State of Maryland</td>
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<td>60’ TV donated by Darius Heyward-Bey</td>
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<td>BH Girls visit Cuban Museum in Washington, DC</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>BH Open House</td>
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<td>New HAS Program begins</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Learning Lab opens 5 days a week</td>
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<td>Board of Directors Annual 3-day Retreat – Rehoboth Beach (Supporting the Vision)</td>
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<td>Dr Paula Cage nominated for Board President – Board approves</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Dr. Yaphet Bryant steps down from Interim Board President, Dr. Paula Cage steps up as President</td>
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<td>Bernadette’s House article in Laurel Leader, “Girl Power”</td>
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<td>MC (Marianna Cater) Lounge dedicated to Carol’s mom, deceased one year ago</td>
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<td>4th Annual “Keeping our Youth Safe” Conference</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>LMD partners with Bernadette’s House. MC Lounge gets a makeover</td>
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<td>Volunteer Holiday Party!</td>
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Financial Plan

Bernadette’s House is committed to protecting and using our assets for our nonprofit mission. Proper financial practices are very important in doing this, since proper practices help to prevent and detect errors and fraud. Good financial practices also assure our donors that we use their gifts for the purposes for which they were intended.

2019 Goals

The Board also proposed the following new goals for 2019:

- BH will purchase a pre-owned, certified, 12-passenger van by the 2nd quarter of 2019
- BH will develop a marketing plan to attract and register 20 girls by the 1st quarter of 2019, to also demonstrate the visibility of the program in order to be eligible for grants
- BH will maintain and expand wellness programming (physical and mental). This includes financial literacy; while incorporating these activities into the program on a consistent basis starting in the 1st quarter of 2019
- BH will complete a financial audit by the end of 2019
- BH will run a 2019–2020 Capital Campaign to raise $550,000 to purchase current house

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
- LMD
Bernadette’s House in the News

- Encore Org
- Global Policy TV
- Carol Nash Press Release
- A Mentoring Program for Girls 10-17 in Laurel, MD. (2017, *YouTube*)
- Bernadette’s House – Keeping Our Youth Safe Conference
- *Laurel Leader* (Girl Power)
- *Meet the Author* (Carol Nash talks about her new children’s book)

Visit our website for more information

Our mentees are encouraged to let their light shine!
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 the children of working parents. ¹

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

Thanks for reading,
Carol Nash

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 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 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) ____________________________________________________________
Our Wish List

- Purchase of our new rented house in 2019, with a makeover by HGTV
- Laptop computers
- A 12-passenger van and driver
- Camp 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 the lives of at-risk girls and their families. “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.

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:
Fundraiser Cruise to Panama Canal, Cuba, Bermuda.

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

– John 17:4