

## 2024 Presbyterian Women *Birthday Offering* Recipients



**Advocates for Community Choice dba Bethel Hills**  
**Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area**  
**Marthasville, Missouri**  
**Bethelhills.org**  
**\$123,500**

Many adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) experience difficulties finding appropriate and affordable housing and often struggle to make friends and thrive in the wider community. Many are placed in nursing homes, boarding homes, with aging parents or in other environments that are expensive and isolating. Bethel Hills addresses the unique needs of individuals with I/DD by providing a safe and loving place that takes into consideration their physical, emotional and spiritual needs in an environment where they can flourish.

By renovating a villa into four accessible apartments for eight individuals, this project will provide housing that takes into consideration specific needs unique to the residents, such as addressing acute sensitivity to sounds, bright light and certain colors. The new recreational area will offer space for art and music therapy and other leisure activities for people with and without intellectual/developmental disabilities. With the Birthday Offering grant, Bethel Hills will expand its mission to provide supportive, faith-based, inclusive community where all are accepted and valued.

**Shawnee Presbyterian Church**  
**Café Ginkgo**  
**Louisville, Kentucky**  
**facebook.com/louisvilleshawneepresbyterian**  
**\$150,000**

Shawnee Presbyterian Church serves as a welcoming beacon of light for their community in Louisville. Located in an economically disadvantaged area where single mothers and children face challenges of food insecurity, the church started addressing this need in August 2019. The small yet dedicated congregation began serving free dine-in meals at Café Ginkgo, named for a ginkgo tree located at the building's north entrance. On average, 30 meals were served at Café Ginkgo each Monday. In 2020, the pandemic put a stop to the program.

At present, the need for healthy food and fellowship continues to grow. With the Birthday Offering grant, Café Ginkgo will be able to reopen with a renovated kitchen and expanded capacity to provide meals. Improvements to the fellowship hall will allow the church to offer enriching activities: tutoring for elementary ages, Ginkgo Play Zone, financial literacy classes and Mama-to-Mama parenting workshops. The members of Shawnee Presbyterian Church will reach out and serve their beloved community with resilience and strength—just like the ginkgo tree outside their door.

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**Advocates for Community Choice dba Bethel Hills**  
**Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area**  
Marthasville, Missouri



Brianna (age 27) has an intellectual/developmental disability. She wanted to try living on her own and Bethel Hills has provided her a perfect setting to adjust to life outside her parents' home, grow in practical skills, and begin to navigate the world more independently. Within the loving and supportive community, Brianna is learning how to cook healthy meals, manage her time, do laundry, and socialize in a comfortable setting. At Bethel Hills she can look towards a future with joy and hope.

Learn more and donate to the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women  
[presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).



PWR24450

**Advocates for Community Choice dba Bethel Hills**  
**Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area**  
Marthasville, Missouri



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