



**Blackstone
Valley
Emergency
Shelter**

help someone hope

BLACKSTONE VALLEY EMERGENCY SHELTER ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Introduction

Mission

Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter mobilizes our community to ensure no one faces homelessness alone. We provide emergency shelter, police-referred crisis response, and structured housing stabilization programs that help individuals and families move from crisis to HOPE.

Shelter Operations

In 2025, BVES successfully opened our physical shelter thanks to the leadership and dedication of John Lapointe and Leah Talbot. George Gannon also played a critical role by serving as our on-site trainer, attending every shift that included a new volunteer to ensure they were prepared and supported. Together, these three individuals, along with all our dedicated volunteers, worked tirelessly through the end of 2025 and into 2026 to establish and operate our shelter for a second successful year at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitinsville. While we continue to partner with the Red Roof Inn in Sutton for emergency accommodations, our shelter at St. Patrick's was open on the coldest winter nights. Our primary objective remains simple: to ensure that help is available whenever someone in our community needs it.

Community Partnerships and Initiatives

In collaboration with local organizations, BVES enhanced its support services through our continued partnership with the Rockdale Youth Center and the Police Partnership Program. We supplied 8 local police departments with "Hope Bags" containing space blankets, gift cards, snacks, gas cards, and other necessities tailored to weather conditions. Additionally, we provided gas and gift cards to these 8 different police departments.

New initiatives for 2025



**“Where every load brings hope.”
Starting May 2025**

Baskets of HOPE Laundry Program

This year, the Board saw the need for laundry services in town. One of our volunteers spearheaded this new program, now called Baskets of Hope. We have partnered with a local laundromat in Linwood, and our Homelessness Navigator works with local services as the “gatekeeper” of this new program. We hope this program will help to restore self-worth and dignity.



Hope's Thrift Closet

Born of a vision to create a steady, sustainable funding source for our mission, Christine Johnson and her sister Regina launched an incredible ministry in downtown Whitinsville. With the generous donation of Trinity Episcopal Church's educational building, they transformed the space into a thriving thrift store. What began as a hopeful idea has surpassed our original projections by a factor of five. Today, dozens of dedicated volunteers faithfully sort, price, and display donations, helping generate hundreds of dollars in sales each day the store is open – all in support of the life-changing work of the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter.



Challenges and Future Goals

The Board approved a strategic plan to offer Temporary Supportive Housing in the Blackstone Valley. The goal is to provide temporary short-term supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and help them become stabilized, gain employment and transition to permanent housing. We received a \$125,000 grant from the State of MA, along with a \$25,000 match from the Town of Northbridge, to fund a strategic plan for our “Hope House.”

Conclusion

As we reflect on 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the incredible volunteers, generous donors, and dedicated community partners who stand beside us. Because of your compassion and unwavering support, BVES is able to open doors of hope, provide shelter on the coldest nights, and remind our neighbors in crisis that they are not alone. Every act of kindness you share helps us bring warmth, dignity, and the promise of a better tomorrow to those who need it most.



FINANCES

Fundraising and Community Engagement

BVES relies heavily on community support to sustain its operations:

- **Annual Fundraisers:**
- **Blackstone Valley Tasting Event:** The Blackstone Valley Tasting, held at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, featured local wineries, breweries, and spirits. The event also included auctions and raffles, with all proceeds supporting shelter operations. In December 2025,
- **Festival of Trees:** In December 2025, BVES held its third Annual BV Festival of Trees fundraiser at the Northbridge Great Hall. This festive and community-focused event brought in over \$20,000, supporting our shelter operations and service programs.
- **Sleep Out Event:** This year, we invited members of the community to step outside their comfort zones and experience what it might be like to sleep without the comfort of their own beds. The event offered a small glimpse into the challenges many of our guests face each night. In its first year, the Sleep Out not only raised awareness about homelessness in our community but also generated \$3,000 in support of our mission.

Financial Overview: In 2025, BVES received funds from community donations, fundraising events, grants, and partnerships. These financial resources were allocated toward shelter operations, community outreach programs, and support services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

FINANCES (CONTINUED)



Statement of Financial Position Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter As of December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 CK 0788	39,896.15
1005 Fundraising CK 9681	20,095.02
1010 Grant CK 9446	300.00
1015 Thrift CK 8883	24,972.88
CD	61,594.53
Total for Bank Accounts	\$146,858.58
Other Current Assets	
1280 Inventory Asset	1,500.00
Gift Card Inventory	97.00
In-Kind Donations Clearing	825.00
Loan to HTC	1,772.90
Undeposited Funds	242.45
Total for Other Current Assets	\$4,437.35
Total for Current Assets	\$151,295.93
Total for Assets	\$151,295.93
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Gift Certificate Liability	-585.00
Loan from BVES	1,772.90
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$1,187.90
Total for Current Liabilities	\$1,187.90
Total for Liabilities	\$1,187.90
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	82,126.15
Retained Earnings	
Net Income	67,981.88
Total for Equity	\$150,108.03
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$151,295.93