Susan A. - Winter 2017

Like every grandparent, Susan loves her three grandkids. They’re teenagers...two boys and a girl. Like nearly three million other grandparents nationwide...a stunning statistic...Susan is raising the teens alone. Well past retirement age, she does it with her Social Security check and modest government help for needy families. The kids’ father disappeared and their mother is dealing with crippling mental health challenges. Earlier this year, Susan’s marriage of many decades disintegrated. There is no spousal support. Susan and the teens suddenly found themselves homeless.

Susan reached out to Bethlehem Inn. She says she found “...a good port in a storm.” Inn staff made sure the kids stayed in the schools they were used to. And while the teens did their homework, Susan did hers with guidance from Inn staff: searching for a place to live. “They gave me direction,” comments Susan...and, “everyone at the Inn showed interest. Everyone knew my name.” Susan’s hard work, along with staff help and encouragement, have enabled grandma and the teens to find temporary housing while Susan continues her search for a permanent home. As she talks about the kids, her love for them shines through every sentence. Her hope: “I want them to make it. And be happy.” About that hope and her own future, Susan feels optimistic...and grateful: “I wouldn’t be where I am without Bethlehem Inn.”