

## Interview<sup>o</sup> with Kay Bennett

LC—Linda Clark

KB—Kay Bennett

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- LC Songwriter Raymond Burke called New Orleans “a city of a million dreams.” For some, it may be a city where dreams come true and they enjoy life. But for many, it is a city of broken dreams. That’s where Baptist Friendship House (BFH) enters the picture! Meet Kay Bennett, director of BFH.
- KB I am happy to be here and tell you about the ministry of BFH. It began in 1944, and I have been director since 1997. The center helps women, men, and families with educational needs and job skills.<sup>o</sup> Our Christian Women’s Job Corps<sup>®</sup> ministry recently partnered with WorldCrafts<sup>®</sup> to help women have jobs.
- LC Is this a homeless shelter—a safe place to stay for people who have nowhere else to go?
- KB We provide a short-term place to stay, and we also have several day programs. We provide snacks, bags of food, showers, and clothing. Employees and volunteers lead Bible studies, job training, and groups for people with the same needs to help support each other.
- LC I understand human trafficking<sup>o</sup> is a major problem in New Orleans.
- KB Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. BFH makes sure people know about it so they will speak up for victims. In 2019, the FBI presented the Director’s Community Leadership Award to BFH for its work against human trafficking.
- LC Tell us about the people whose dreams have been left behind.
- KB We use every opportunity to tell the good news of Jesus. We minister to the whole person, based on Matthew 25:31–46. We use God’s love to form a team that works and lives together. We want to help people repair broken relationships<sup>o</sup> and have good dreams again. We want their dreams to be centered on Jesus.
- LC How can we pray for BFH and the people you minister to?
- KB Pray that victims of human trafficking will be set free. Pray that people without homes will find jobs and a place to live that they can pay for. Pray for less crime in New Orleans. Pray for people in the city who are very poor.
- LC Only God can repair dreams! He is using BFH to change lives. BFH offers God’s love with food, through a short-term place to stay, through WorldCrafts, or with a backpack, and Jesus’ name is glorified.