



**Rachelle St. Phard**  
Executive Director

[www.betheli9ht.org](http://www.betheli9ht.org)

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May 30, 2023

Dear East Windsor/Hightstown Community:

As you may know, I have been running The BeTheLi9ht Center (A place for people who feel lost, a place for people who have lost & a place for HOPE) since September of 2021. This center is in downtown Hightstown and is for our students 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades every day after school & on Friday nights. It is a place where they can just **BE**.

To start the center, we used money that was contributed to a GoFundMe that was created after I lost my 18-year-old son, Coby, to suicide in 2016. In addition, the last 2 years, we have held The BeTheLi9ht/Be-The-Music Festival as our main fundraiser.

Without some major changes, The BeTheLi9ht Center may have to close its doors.

What do I need from our “village”/community? I need people to support us on the backend **as well as center volunteers**. We need people who are willing to lead or be on committees such as the following:

- Marketing/social media
- Fundraising
- Grants
- Programming (what types of things/events at the center)
- Partners (work with other local agencies to partner on events for our kids)
- Volunteers for the center as well as events and fundraisers
- Advisory Board

To volunteer in one of these capacities, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/charellsaint/BTLCenter-volunteer-survey>

In addition to the committees & center volunteers, we are also in need of space. We will be letting our lease go as of the end of June. Although we love our space, it is not cost-effective to stay here. To that end, we are looking for space to rent or use for minimal rent or donation. If you are part of a house of worship, civic organization or company that has a large space or party room that could be used after school and perhaps a Friday night her or there, please let me know. We would love to talk to you about helping facilitate making the center happen, just in another form/at another location. We do have some irons in the fire on the space front but are open to what else may be available.

Of course, we can always use money to move this forward and will be applying for additional grants, but I will need help to do so. You don't necessarily need to have “grant writing experience” to help, just a willingness and time to work on them. **However, money is irrelevant if we do not have people to help us in general. People are the best commodity that we need now.**



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To donate, please visit <https://gofund.me/223d40f5>

I love our kids and know they need our support. There is so much despair and isolation going on with our kids. Their mental health has suffered since the dawn of the smart phone, whether it be bullying, social media comparison, FOMO (fear of missing out) or just plain old too much time on the devices and not enough sleep. This epidemic has drastically increased due to the pandemic. As a community, we need to offer some alternatives to being at home and being on devices.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachelle St. Phard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rachelle St. Phard  
President  
BeTheLi9ht Foundation  
609.306.6700

Your donation is tax deductible as Fly High Coby is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with a federal tax identification number-82-3030143.