



Holiday Letter 2012 **Tis the Season!**

Friends, we only have to turn on the news to see devastation and heartbreak. The recent storm on the East Coast is testimony to that. But every day, smaller, yet no less significant devastation and heartbreak occur right here, in our local communities. Single moms without funds to buy diapers for their infants, women and children with no place to call home, pregnant teens disowned, devalued and disillusioned. **Yes, indeed, we have our own stormy situations that aren't making national news, but that involve very real families without hope, homes, or help.**

Just as we are witness to people making other people their priority in water flooded neighborhoods, Beth Rhinehart and Bethany House; continue to make wounded women and children a priority right here in our own neighborhood. Like the rescuers we see on the nightly news, Beth, the face of Bethany House, travels to help women and children get the resources they need. She literally goes to them, help in hand, ready to serve and save. Providing places to live, food to eat, resources for recovery, and much more, she has become one of God's servants who make helping others the first priority.

Christ didn't hide out behind temple walls, He ventured into the heart and homes of the people He was born to serve. He provided help and hope to the unpopular, the unfed, the ones others found unworthy and unsavory. Bethany House continues to follow His example. Christmas is a time when we remember the birth of our Savior. We make greater efforts to step out of our comfort zones and into the storm-slammed zones of our world. **Maybe you can't physically reach those trapped by life's high waters, but you can still make a difference.**

By giving you can help frontline rescue workers like Beth Rhinehart and Bethany House as they come face-to-face with the suffering in our communities. Your support allows services to reach the women and children unable to navigate the rough waters of life, those individuals Christ wants us to love and serve. **Become a sponsor family, provide an end of year donation, or even better, become a monthly supporter. Storms come year around, not just at Christmas. You can be another set of helping hands, lifting others to safe ground.**

In doing so, you will receive the gift of joy that comes from giving. God bless you. And thank you for your support and prayer.

You can give online at www.bethanyhousenet.org or mail to PO Box 3278, Gresham, OR 97030. Call Beth Rhinehart to learn more about the sponsor family program and how you can open your home and heart to a pregnant woman or single mom. 503.667.8409





Hayden



Lizabella 03/29/2012

Christmas

With Bethany House’s long history of helping young women become successful mothers, countless babies have grown into “big kids” and even adults. With twenty-plus years of service, that’s a lot of successes! What that also is, is **perseverance**. Bethany has battled to stay in the life saving business when so many other programs have be demolished by the economic storms that have overtaken the US in the past decades, especially in the last five years. With your help, we have and will (with your help) continue to rescue women and children stranded in situations often beyond their control. Unborn babies and children are dependent on the choices of their mothers. Bethany House has helped women choose life, choose better lifestyles, and achieve success when failure was the norm. Here we’ve showcased several children/young adults who were born at Bethany House and are growing up to make a difference.



Drowning in Despair

Not all our clients want to be identified. We understand, but their stories are still newsworthy. We’ll use “Jill” to represent one young woman who found herself pregnant, alone, addicted to meth, and homeless. She was drowning with no life preserver in sight. Thankfully, with Beth’s guidance, your financial support and prayers, Jill completed treatment, had a healthy baby, and is finishing her education. She knows that God has a plan and purpose for her life. Her daughter has a chance for the life Jill has been denied. Abused by a family member, disowned by that same family, she has been adopted into a whole new family – God’s family. Our family. Jill’s story is familiar, a majority of the women we serve experienced abuse or neglect on some level. They were abandoned and alone. They turned to drugs, men, “the world” to heal their hearts, but were instead hurt even more. Bethany House is the life-preserver that helps free them from fear and leads them to freedom.

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Bekah & Mom Michele



RaeLynn & Mom Laura

