

Happy Holidays

From The Bethany House Program to you



Holiday Greetings!

Can we start off by agreeing that 2020 has been a year to remember?

I suspect many of you are eagerly awaiting a New Year, and hopefully, a fresh start. Like many families, businesses, and nonprofit programs, things have been tough for Bethany House. Not enough resources to meet increasing individual needs and the needs in our communities are common themes.

The Bethany House program has an unprecedented number of women with children seeking support and services as they are affected by the pandemic, which in turn has caused greater incidents of domestic violence, homelessness, job loss, and addictions. Putting food on the table and keeping warm is proving to be difficult for so many. Yet, in the midst of these challenging times, we want to celebrate the successes our “girls” have experienced. We hope these stories inspire you, and despite of your own difficulties you will feel moved to get involved and rediscover the joy of giving and the blessings that come from compassion and generosity. For those of you who have continued to give and support our mission, our gratitude is beyond words. Thank you. Together, we can accomplish so much.



Healing and Hope (Please note, due to updated confidentiality agreements, we are no longer using the girls’ real names, and some prefer not have pictures of themselves or their children’s photos shared as many have experienced domestic violence and other tragic circumstances. Their safety and comfort comes first. But their stories, those belong to them, as shared by them, always.)

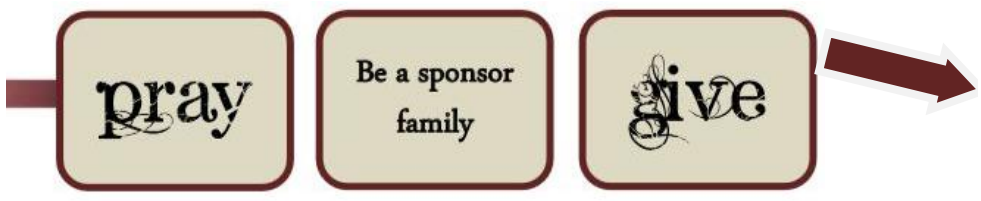
Cindy’s Story: I am very sad to say, I got addicted methamphetamines. I basically quit talking to people I knew growing up and only socialized with fellow drug users. Then, I found myself pregnant and didn’t know what to do because I had nowhere to go, the father was nowhere to be found and couldn’t imagine raising a kid on the streets or by myself. I had gone to a place called Begin Right to get maternity clothes and they had told me about the Bethany House Program.

While participating in the Bethany House Program I learned many things about myself like what kind of mother I wanted to be for my child and how I never wanted to put my daughter in any situations that I had already endured. Those made me realize that I needed to go to school and better myself. With the program’s assistance, I achieved my GED and that was the start to bettering our lives. Shortly after, I was approved for housing, and have had stable housing ever since.

It took a while, but I achieved an AAS in Administrative Office Professional – Web Design Option. I ended up with 2 jobs, and I am very proud of my accomplishments.

Without the Bethany House Program who knows where I might be today or even if I would have custody of my child. I definitely wouldn’t have gotten my GED or graduated college. Thank you Bethany House for all that you have done for my daughter and I, and what you still do to help, even now.

We hope you agree that Cindy’s story is reason to celebrate!



Three ways to help women like Cindy this Holiday Season and beyond.



So...what is this whole Sponsor Family thing about? ❄️

We'll let Connie tell you all about her experience: Years ago, at age 17, I was expecting my first child, Jonathan (Jon). Although I had more family support than Jules (the woman she sponsored, name changed for privacy), I understood what it was like to be unsure of the future, while conscientiously wanting to provide the best possible security for a baby.

Over the years, I raised Jon (my son) to the best of my young abilities. Even though well-meaning people had told me I would not be able to provide a good life for him, and that we'd "just end up on welfare," Jon turned out to be the "golden child" at the top of his class. After a very successful high school and college career, he has become a major contributor to society, exhibiting professionalism and purpose that continues to astound me even as a mom.

My point is that no one can look at a young mother or her child and predict how they will turn out. Only God knows that.

That is why I was thrilled to be able to sponsor Jules, bringing her into the home God graciously blessed me with. It blesses me to pass on to her the first-hand knowledge I've experienced of God's faithfulness in my life. He is my Best Friend, exceeding all my expectations. In allowing me to give back to someone whose shoes I've walked in, I have more than I could have hoped for.

Thank you Bethany House for your role in facilitating this.



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Food for Thought: Purpose, Process (Progress), and Payoff

Those 3 "P" Words describe Bethany House Program's message of hope turned into a mission of love for women and children who hunger for help. Simply saying, "I love you," isn't enough, is it? According to Christ, there is a deeper purpose in loving. For in the process, which includes tangible demonstrations of love, progress is made, and, ultimately, there is a payoff, for both the Giver and the Receiver.

Love is a relationship. Love is an Action. Love leads us to do for others.

God reminds us to help widows, children, the imprisoned, the impoverished, and the wounded. The Bethany House Program, with your help, gives love in practical ways that change lives for eternity. And yes, oftentimes, loving like Christ does require great sacrifices.

But we believe, despite the sacrifice, you will stand by our side, during this, for many, difficult Holiday Season. You will love boldly, giving of your time, talents, and treasures to help women and children experience purpose, progress, and the Great Payoff.



We pray you and your family remain, safe, healthy, and hopeful this Holiday Season. We thank you for your ongoing support as we celebrate this season of love. May God bless you richly and beyond measure in the days ahead.

Please make checks to Bethany House PO Box 3278, Gresham, OR 97030 *** Multiple Online Giving options at: www.bethanyhousenet.org. And find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Bethany-House-201883746521268/> Call: 503.667.8409 or Fax: 503.667.9929