

Happy Holidays

FROM BETHANY HOUSE

How is Success Measured?

We think the Holiday Season is the perfect time to answer that question so many of you ask throughout the year. Statistics are one way, but stories like Marie's reveal so much more.

Pictured are Marie and her daughter, Zila



When I was accepted into PA school, I didn't think I'd be moving my family across the country halfway through my education due to my program closing. From the start, COVID made the move a difficult transition for my kids by not being able to make friends in our new location, so we had to deal with ongoing mental health struggles with our family unit. With moving 4 times, food and housing insecurities became a heavy burden on my shoulders since I was the sole breadwinner for my family, and I was a full-time student, unable to take on a regular job if I was going to be able to complete school. We struggled with finding ways to make money for gas so I could attend my clinical rotations all over the phoenix metro area. With a larger city, it was next to impossible to sell things online in a timely manner, if at all. I applied for every assistance program available in hopes of saving us from homelessness. The risk of losing it all was so overwhelming, I decided to start a GoFundMe in hopes of making it to graduation, and not giving up on my dream and everything I had worked so hard for since my daughter was born 12 years ago. Starting a GoFundMe was a very difficult decision. I had to swallow my pride and ask strangers for a helping hand by telling them my struggles, and my family's struggles—which is not something you talk about—but I could no longer suffer in silence if I didn't want to watch my dreams slip away.

Thankfully, with the help of a community of people (strangers, acquaintances, and ATSU) and my family supporting me, I graduated from A.T Still University with a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies on September 16th, 2022. I thought I'd never see the day. My family and I will be moving back to the Pacific Northwest, so I can practice medicine in Oregon. We hope to start a mini farm and get back to growing our own food, which we have found next to impossible in Arizona. My next goal is to become fluent in Spanish to serve my medical mission trips to Mexico and in my new community health clinic. I have accomplished what I used to think was unattainable for me, from where I came from. I have even been told I would end up in prison and be a nobody— not black enough, not white enough, not Hispanic enough to be anybody. Through those lessons and my winding path in life, I have found me. I am a person I am proud of. I am a positive influence to my children and my community. I am enough.

My educational journey: AA from Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, WA, BHS from Pacific University in Hillsboro, OR, MPAS from A.T. Still University in Mesa, AZ.

It is critical to remember, when Bethany House found me, I was homeless and pregnant with my daughter. Lost in life, not knowing where to turn. Beth has been a positive light in my life since I met her. She helped me learn to trust people and was one of the first people to tell me she was proud of me. I hope to provide that same love as I move forward into a new chapter of my life as a medical provider. I don't know and hate to think about where I'd be in life if we hadn't crossed paths. I don't have a lot of people in this world, but I'm glad I gained one more in my circle with Beth. Her life's mission helped to save mine. There are no words that will ever be able to fully express my gratitude.

With cold weather here and winter (including all the holidays) just around the bend, we have seen an increasing number of women seeking services from our program. Helping them develop the skills not only to survive, but to thrive, is rewarding to say the least. As you well know, parenting is no easy task for anyone, but alone, without loving family or friends, or suitable finances, it can become nearly unbearable.

Thankfully, with the success of our sponsor families we are helping meet those needs, and we want you to know what a vital part your commitment to Bethany House plays in changing lives. You may not be able to sponsor a woman and child, but your generous giving and thoughtful prayers make a significant difference in our life-saving mission. It is imperative that we're here and available to help when the phone rings. Because, so often, we're the only thing keeping women from making choices that would further devastate their lives, negatively impacting them far into the future.

Despite long-lasting economic challenges, with your help, Bethany House will not only continue, but expand. If you are able, please, consider making an additional donation this Holiday Season. We must continue to offset our supporters who have met with financial hardship and are no longer able to give as before. Even a small increase makes a big difference. With winter months closing in, we can expect more heartbreaking phone calls. These precious callers need to hear there is hope and then receive the tangible help that makes new life possible. Together, with God's help, we are the bringers of hope, health, and, ultimately, happiness. Your gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference. Jesus came to seek and save the lost; let us be His hands extended this Christmas to the lost in our community. After all, giving is the best gift of all. We are grateful for your support. May God bless you richly and beyond measure

What Women Are Saying about the Sponsor Program?

"My experiences from living with my Sponsor Family were more than I expected. I came here to Oregon from Hawaii to give my daughter up for adoption. After I gave birth to my baby girl, I could not give her up. Afterwards the adoption agency had to cut me off and I had nowhere to go. I called Bethany House and Beth call back with news of a Sponsor Family that was interested in meeting with me and decided I would fit with their family. My Sponsor Family to this day are still in my life and are more than that we are family. We love each other. I would like to give a special Thank You to Bethany House, the Supporters and to my Sponsor Family for all their love and support =)"

"I want to thank my Sponsor Family, Bethany House, and my parents who were so helpful and my relationship with my mom and dad has grown leaps and bounds. Thank you for supporting such just a great ministry, so I could get the help I needed and a new life!!"



AND this year when you give, thanks to **ANOTHER** generous matching donation offer from Weston Pontiac Buick GMC of Gresham you can **DOUBLE YOUR GIVING.**

They will match up to \$5,000! That means if you give \$100, you are actually donating \$200.

Thank you to everyone at Weston for your longtime steadfast support of the Bethany House Program.

THANK YOU to all our supporters. We appreciate you and your generous hearts. You can continue to help by praying, sponsoring a woman and child, and giving.



pray

Be a sponsor
family

give

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