

Bethany House

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A MARINE TO BE PROUD OF!!

Who would have known that the first child born to Bethany House would be serving our country? In 1988 Bethany House had its first arrival, baby Lucas. Like many young women Lucas's mother Cathie found herself pregnant and wondering what to do. After all, this wasn't how life was supposed to go, or was it? Pregnant and alone, Cathie went to Crisis Pregnancy Center to seek help. She was told about a new home for girls that was forming and would be opening soon, Bethany House. Founder and Director Beth Rhinehart, along with her husband Jack (known as Grandpa) opened their home to Cathie. A special family was formed. Cathie came to know the Lord and was moving forward. Then along came Lucas whom everyone loved and watched grow right before their eyes. From first steps to first grade to first girlfriend, the family walked through these steps with him. Luke struggled at times, but always knew he had the love and support of his Mother and new-found family. Then overnight it seemed that Luke had grown into a young man and was graduating high school. Needless to say, he had a very proud "family" attending his graduation. Then came the announcement; of "I am going to join the Marines." I think we all could have heard a pin drop. He couldn't even clean his room much less join the Marines. Our hearts and minds were filled with memories of the little boy born so long ago in a ministry just beginning. Today, Luke is finishing up his MOS training in the Marines. He will further his education at MHCC and serve in the Reserves. Luke will always be a special part of this ministry and a reminder that God exceeds our expectations when we step out in faith and do His work. Luke, our hats are off to you and we are so proud of you.

"Semper Fi"

A note from Luke:

I will always be very grateful for the love and support I received, for the family I gained, and for all of you who made it possible for me to be who I am today.



With Her Head Held High ...

The day Tonya came to Bethany House is a day we will all remember. She walked through the door with her head hung; with an almost tangible aura of sadness surrounding her. We all wondered about her previous life. Why did she seem so heartbroken? Later, we discovered that Tonya had grown up in an array of foster homes and had been abused, neglected, and beaten. As we began to know her, one thing stood out, Tonya was a survivor, someone who wanted to learn and grow despite how her life had been. Today, Tonya loves to cook, organize, and clean. She is an incredible caregiver. If you want the best Potato Pancakes, she's your girl! Tonya has had many difficulties with her pregnancy and was on bed rest for over a month. As of now, she is off bed rest and enjoying doing the "normal" things again. We have seen such remarkable growth in Tonya since her arrival. We are so proud of her. She now walks with her head held high and a smile on her face. This is what Bethany House is all about; this is what your contribution allows us to accomplish -- to love and help each girl become an independent, self-sufficient woman of God.



A Diamond in the Rough!

Rachel came from a Christian home where she was loved and over protected by her mother. It was clear that she needed to learn life skills to be able to take care of herself and her baby. Later, we were to find out that Rachel had been raped in her teens and molested at a very young age. Her mom became over protective because she had felt so guilty about what happened to her precious daughter. As Rachel began our program she started to change and we began to see this frightened, uncertain girl begin to blossom. Rachel is becoming more confident in herself and learning all she can about having a healthy baby. She is changing her eating habits, working part time and will be volunteering in the community. The hardest part of this journey is working on deep personal issues. Thank you for making this safe home possible for girls like Rachel.



Kristy, Rachel, Tonya



From Tears to Joy



Most of you remember our Christmas newsletter where we introduced our newest baby girl Jaydalyn and her mom, Kristy. Yet another success story! Kristy is in the process of getting her GED, and is doing very well. Jaydalyn is now four months old and has started laughing when we say "Boo." It is so wonderful to hear her little laugh and see the happy smile on her face! Kristy will be taking a little bit of us all with her as well as leaving a bit of herself behind when she transitions out. You see, she is our comedy relief. Ever need a laugh?--Call Kristy. These women are such unique individuals with so much to share. Thank you for helping them discover joy after tears.



*Jewels shine brightly every day
at Bethany House. You help
make these women sparkle!*

Thank you!



From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

There is never a dull moment at Bethany House. When Jack and I started welcoming young women, like Luke's mother, Cathie, into our home almost twenty years ago, we had no idea what God had in store for us. What began as a dream has grown from one hurting-pregnant-girl on our living room sofa to a specialized program and home filled with laughter and love -- a home where over 400 women and their children have found a whole new life. What a journey! Many of you have been with us since the very beginning, while some of you have just joined us as we continue to uncover precious diamonds in the rough. Although these young women may be rough around the edges when they arrive, when they leave, well, let's just say they do indeed sparkle and shine with God's light.



Jack and Beth Rhinehart

This past year, we have learned a great deal more about you, our friends and supporters. Many of you, quite frankly, are burned out on the whole big-banquet event. We understand!

We have decided, after much prayer and consideration, to try something new and different in 2008. Our program has always been about relationships -- developing and maintaining lasting friendships with our residents and our partners. Although our yearly banquet has, for many years, served as our primary source for fundraising, we have decided to step out in faith with a new relationship-building program. What does this new program "look like?" **Let me explain.**

We'd like to come to you at your home, church, business, or organization and put on a "party" (for lack of a better word) where we share refreshments and the ministry of Bethany House with you and your guests. This will allow curious friends (we know you're out there) to join us in an informal setting to find out if Bethany House's mission matches your desires to serve and share. We will also look for supporters to sponsor smaller fundraising events. Why not host a dinner party for six or eight couples who value life and are interested in learning more about our ministry? We'll share our inspirational video and be there to answer questions about how you and your guests can get involved. If you're not sure how to pull this type of thing off, just call. We would be glad to host your group at Bethany House and include a program tour. With events and parties like this, we are sure to make friends and provide incredible service opportunities for you and your friends. **Call us to learn more. After all, digging for diamonds is a group effort. These lives are a treasure worth finding and fighting for.**

This Holiday Season, many small groups and churches rallied together and provided financial support for our program, gifts for our residents, presents for their babies, and responded generously to the household needs at Bethany House. We were all blessed by their giving spirits. Former resident Tina, and, her growing baby boy, Daniel, benefited from one such church's generosity.

Every girl was adopted and experienced Christmas bliss like never before. They are continually amazed that strangers actually love and care about them enough to give selflessly to our program ... to them.

Often times, small-group-giving is the one thing that demonstrates God's love in a very tangible way. Tears and smiles abounded this Holiday Season, all due to your loving support.





Technology is Here

Even at Bethany House, we can't ignore the amazing, cost-saving, technology now available. In order to become more cost efficient and make life easier for our readers, we now have an online giving option. Just visit - www.bethanyhousenet.org - to take advantage of this new feature for sending your donation.

Tired of Paper?

No problem! We are happy to send newsletters and any other correspondences via email. Please help us update our records. Let us know your latest contact information, including email address. Indicate if you'd like to receive email instead of "regular" mail.



Just for Laughs: These babies sure start young. What happened to a good old pen and paper?

Bethany House Blog ... Experience the difference

In addition to our newly updated website, we have started a brand new online journal, or as most people refer to them - a BLOG. The Bethany House blog will explore topics related to helping pregnant women, overcoming addictions, relationships, parenting, and much more. Prayer and devotions will be available, as well as up-to-date information about current and former residents. What happens day to day at Bethany House? -- these are just a sampling of our diverse themes. Here, you can comment, share your insight, and join the discussion. **See you there!**

Join the discussion! Check out Bethany House's new online Blog:
<http://bethanyhousegresham.wordpress.com/>

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