

Bethany House

Summer Issue 2010

Former "Latch-key Kid" Discovers the Key to a New Life



Maria and Baby Ziya

"My place in this life has changed many times: from an abused and neglected 'latch-key' kid into a homeless youth. Eventually, I graduated into a controlled housewife, which led me to become a single, homeless, pregnant woman. Not exactly where I imagined myself being at such a delicate stage in my life."

I was nearly five months pregnant by the time there was room in a local shelter. I was sleeping on couches and have moved three times by that time. I was happy to finally have my very own room and a refrigerator to keep fresh food in.

At the shelter, I was given the number to Bethany House. I didn't really know what to expect when I called. I expected someone to say 'sorry not room' or no answer at all. Instead, I got someone who seemed genuine with her words and empathy for my situation. That woman's name was Beth.

She has been there for me with emotional and moral support,

words of encouragement, and even found a group of people who wanted to give me a baby shower even though they didn't know me.

Thanks to Beth of Bethany House and the Yolanda House (the shelter I stayed in at first, I have been able to secure a job, and a stable living situation.



I am very excited to start this new chapter in my life with my best foot forward. I believe that I have overcome numerous obstacles in a very short amount of time. I could not have done any of that without Bethany House. A little support, encouragement, and willpower can go a long way.

A note from Beth: Maria also obtained her C.N.A. License while pregnant, and, as she said, she went right out and secured employment. She failed to mention how she took a bus to and from this job no matter how exhausted she was during her pregnancy. In addition, she found a one bedroom apartment to call home.

Maria is doing fantastic following Ziya's birth. She does, however, need furniture for her new apartment. If you have donations and can deliver, please let us know!

Let's continue to support his family!



The New Phase II Community will offer:

A comfortable, safe, and highly affordable living space/ apartment (rent based on ability to pay/income level.)

Access to numerous support services and resources, including spiritual growth programs.

Ongoing parenting classes, instruction, and support, with combined life skills development.

Individual case management and goal setting.

Education planning, support while attending school, and access to computers for homework.

Career Development, employment related assistance, guidance, and support.

Access to specialized counseling services and groups as needed for personal growth and recovery.

Most importantly, clients will experience a loving, nurturing, Christian community of qualified and dedicated staff and volunteers.

- We need your financial support to make our new Phase II Program a reality. Watch for further details and a financial forecast coming soon. -

Mergy (pictured right) now has a fulltime job, is attending school, and has her own car! When she arrived at Bethany House, she could barely speak English! We're so proud of her many achievements.

Sponsor Family Speaks Up!

A year ago, I met a representative from Bethany House, not knowing what God had in store for our family. She phoned me the next day with questions, and we discussed some of the things the Lord had been impressing on my heart.

About six years ago, I had become a Labor Doula and had many opportunities to minister to young, single, expecting mothers in our church family. By the grace of God, I was honored to help, counsel, and labor with many of these wonderful women. I became a resource for women, helping anywhere — from Lamaze classes to an occasional midnight “emergency” call with questions.

With my third pregnancy now on its way, I felt the focus was changing in my life. I needed to redirect my energy towards my own family. After five years, four different jobs, and now adding baby number four, I figured that the serving-pregnant-women-chapter in my life was closed ... until Bethany House came into my life. After meeting with Beth it was very clear that God was bringing me back into service. Being a teacher and offering my experience as a labor doula, I could give much needed support to the girls at Bethany House.

During my classes, I met some very wonderful young ladies. One particular young lady and I sparked a friendship right away. Her name is Mergiyaneh, a spunky jokester from Ethiopia. We could communicate with each other despite her broken English, and my compassion for her increased every time we talked.

Just weeks before she had her daughter, I spoke with my husband informing him of her situation. I told my wonderful husband, Kirk that after her time with the Bethany House was over she would live at My Fathers House.



Without a pause my husband suggested that she come to live with us instead. In an instant we knew what we were to do — call Beth, clean out the extra bedroom, and pray!

One month prior to starting with the Bethany House we had become a certified Foster Family through Oregon. So after our decision was made in November, we called our certifier and let her know our plans about taking in Mergiyaneh and her daughter, who was born November, 13th 2008.

Our plan was to move the both of them into our home April 2009. One week prior to her moving in we received yet another surprise. Jeremiah Collins, a three week old from Bethany House was placed with us at his mothers request through the Department of Human Services. The next week our family grew from six to nine. Our hearts have always been open to the Lord's leading and direction. We just didn't know His direction would open our doors so widely.

It has been an honor and a joy to have such a full home...and I am expecting again. Many people look at our lives and think that we are crazy. But we know that when the Lord orchestrates something the music that follows is beautiful, and our job is to welcome it with open arms.

Is our life hectic? At times.

Are their challenges? Sometimes.

Is our living room noisy? YES — always.

But we know that when it's hectic we find His peace, when there are challenges we find Gods direction and joy in His strength, and when it is noisy...we find earplugs!

Unequelled Jenitorial: A Business that Cares

Another year has come and gone and once again we have watched the "girls" from Bethany House grow into beautiful young women and mothers.

For the last 20 years Unequelled Janitorial has sponsored children in foreign countries (we currently have 5 from Thailand), orphanages in Mexico, church groups on mission trips, Special Olympics, local and private school events, as well as, sports teams earning money for those summer trips and various ministry programs.

God has greatly blessed Unequelled, and several years ago, the owners, Linda Shaw and Shawn Gettys, decided that they wanted to focus on a local organization. "Jennifer Larson-Hyer first introduced us to Bethany House over 7 years ago. So we contacted Beth, and decided this was where we felt God was leading. At first, the support was financial. As we became more involved, we found things that Bethany House could use and we were able to help with products for the running of the home itself. We learned about the many volunteers that helped with paperwork, yard work, mentoring, etc.

We had no idea of the involvement required to help these women blossom into the mothers that God intended for them to be.

As time passed, we felt bonded to the girls in a more emotional sense. With the changes God has brought to Bethany House, we are now able to help assist these women in a more personal way. We hope this will help bring independence, security, and the self-confidence needed to mature into healthy and happy adults. As God continues to bless Unequelled Janitorial, we plan to continue to bless others. **I would encourage anyone who is searching for a worthwhile cause to call Beth and allow her explain the program.**



Directors Corner

What a busy and exciting summer as more sponsor families discover the benefits of standing in the gap for women and children.

The Moormann Family (pictured with story) was certainly blessed beyond their expectations as a sponsor family.

There are so many unique opportunities to get involved and bless these young women and children, as Unequelled Janitorial (pictured left) and Beta Sigma Phi (photo on back page) have discovered. We

Thank you for your support.

Beth



"Touching Two Lives at a Time ... and Generations Beyond"

Bethany House, Inc.

Become a Life-Changer!

PO Box 3278 Gresham, OR 97030

(503) 661-8409

I request my bank or credit card company to monthly transfer funds in the amount of \$_____ (US) until further notice.

I understand I am in full control of my donation and anytime I wish to make changes I will contact this organization.

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So Many Ways to Give!

The ladies from **Beta Sigma Phi** graciously threw a baby shower for Maria, who was thrilled by the gesture and much-needed gifts and baby supplies she received. Something as simple as a baby shower can mean the world to a woman who is alone, without support.



United Way Giving

If your employer is a United Way Contributor, you can designate your donation to go directly to Bethany House. Just ask your United Way Representative for a donor card.

What our families need:

- Diapers (Pampers and/or Huggies, others just don't "hold.") Sizes: 1 to 5, both boys and girls and infant.
- Diaper wipes
- Pull-ups size 4/5 Toddler
- Laundry Soap (sensitive skin)
- Gas Cards for transportation, Fred Meyers, Target, Winco, Wal-Mart.
- Children/infant clothing

CALL FOR A DETAILED LIST: 503.667.8409

SCRAPS

Nicole Harding decided to make her Senior Project something to help others. She learned about Bethany House from her mother, who has supported the program in the past. Her project titled: SCRAPS, stands for Sewing for Children Realizing All Parents can Succeed. She uses her "scraps" to create well-crafted and usable items for mothers and babies.

Nicole hopes to someday be a neonatal specialist or Labor/Delivery Nurse. Thanks, Nicole!

