




# Bethany House

PROVIDING A LOVING HOME FOR SINGLE PREGNANT YOUNG WOMEN • DECEMBER 2005



 Our newest baby is David, born to Cynetta, just six weeks ago. David looks like a little man with his dark curly hair and charcoal eyes. His mom has the following to say about her Bethany House experience:

When I was young, I had to protect myself and my younger brothers while my mom worked to support us alone. I learned to survive. When I was thirteen, I stopped coming home on time, and ran away a lot because I couldn't stand the men my mom brought home. They physically and emotionally abused her, which led my mom to drinking in order to hide her own pain. She was frustrated at my attempts to get rid of the dogs, she called men.

When I was fifteen my mom had a boyfriend who was a little younger than she was. He had a twenty-two year old cousin who came around to check on us and I started looking at older men differently with a sinful lust. I lost my virginity at just fourteen, which made me very jumpy, but that wasn't the worst of it. I gave up my purity for something so stupid. After I started running around with older men, I found myself drawn into prostitution. All this led me to the streets and the streets led me to worrying about where I would sleep and what I would eat the next day. My mom, even though she was still drinking, tried to help. She called the police in attempts to bring me home when I'd run away. But at seventeen, I made another wrong decision and found myself alone and pregnant, unsure of what to do. I chose life and decided to keep my baby. I am so glad I did.

Today, I have a beautiful baby boy, David Emanuel Smith, born on September 20, 2005, who I have temporarily placed with my Godmother while I go on to another program to continue my healing and personal growth. I thank my home church for supporting me and Bethany House for teaching me to be independent without relying on abusive and dysfunctional men. I have learned so much at Bethany House but I still have a way to go. I know with God's help all things are possible.

Photo by Colleen Cahill



# WATCH THEM GROW

Wouldn't it be incredible if we could jump forward and take a peek at our future? Just a tiny peek! In the movie *Back to the Future*, several individuals experienced this impossible thrill. Actually, it is more enjoyable (not that I've ever done future traveling!) to look backward and take note of just how far we've come. The holidays are a perfect time to consider where we've been and set goals for the future. It is a wonderful season to count our blessings and be thankful we are alive,

breathing and have hope for tomorrow.

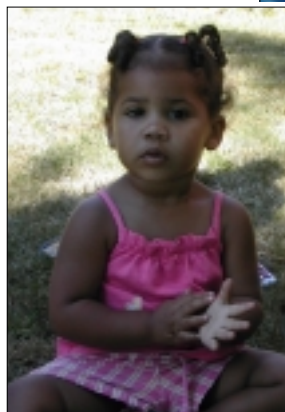
Recently, we've had the opportunity to look back at several of the babies born at Bethany House. Some of the most exquisite treasures we receive are the letters and photos of previous residents. We hope you too enjoy seeing the pictures of our babies who have grown into children, and our women who are newly married. Watching the old become new is a great way to see just how deeply Bethany House is able to touch two lives at a time... and generations beyond.



*Ashley and Raelynn have become long time friends since their mothers went through the Bethany House program. Just as our women build life long friendships often time their children do as well.*



*Abigail*



*Makenna*



*Ashley and Raelynn*



# ...AND GROW



We talk a lot about babies and moms in our stories. However, Bethany House also shares about touching future generations. After fifteen years, we are beginning to see the trickle effect of what our services have done for others. Many years ago, a baby named Aaron lived at Bethany House with his young mother. He is now, drum roll please, thirteen years old! This is one motivated young man we're highlighting.

Aaron is an 8th grader at a local Gresham school. He loves to read and

his favorite outdoor activity is paintballing with his friends. Aaron is also a member of the Young Marines. This is a dedicated group of ambitious 8 to 18 year-old boys and girls who desire to have a future military career. Young Marines is led by retired marines who teach integrity, responsibility, and to respect authority. This program isn't for "troubled" teens, but for teens who excel and care about themselves, their families, and their country. Wow! We are encouraged to know that this



boy directly benefited from his mother's changed life, and is now touching his world in such a positive way.



## Their Future is in Your Hands

Dear Friend,

Sometimes my heart breaks.

It's been 15 years since I began giving my life to rescue hurting, pregnant women, helping them step out from the ashes of their past and into the light of a better tomorrow. Young women often enslaved by men who are destroying their lives and stomping on their self-worth, come to Bethany House with the clothes on their backs and carrying an unborn baby.

These women aren't much more than children themselves. We, certainly, can agree they did not always make intelligent choices, yet, casting blame isn't the answer. Instead, we must look to support viable solutions that lead to lasting change and better lives for these wounded women and their infants.

Their lives affect and are intertwined

with ours in many surprising ways. With over a million teenage girls pregnant in the US alone each year, we can expect welfare, prison, and hospital costs to rise. Statistics show that 80% of young, teenage moms end up on welfare, passing the same lifestyle on to their children. The sons of single, teenage mothers are 2.7 times more likely to end up in prison.

**Bethany House offers a solution.**

Molested at age 12, by her mother's boyfriend, and then pushed to the streets by her alcoholic mom, can we really expect such a girl to make healthy choices? How would she even know how?

**Bethany House can show her.**

Tormented and tortured in her own country, a woman escaped to the United States to find little support and later no work. She ended up prostituting herself to survive. She had no education and

spent time pregnant living inside a cardboard box in downtown Portland.

**Bethany House offered her a home.**

Fleeing from an abusive, drug-addicted boyfriend, a woman traveled to Oregon from California to start a new life for her unborn son. But how would she break the patterns of addiction and abuse, learning how not to pass this lifestyle on to her precious child?

**Bethany House was there for her and helped her transition not only to a new home, but to a new life.**

A pregnant woman coerced into an abortion she doesn't want, because her family is ashamed of her pregnancy is not uncommon. Every day, I receive calls where a tearful voice says, "They're kicking me out unless I have an abortion. I have nowhere to go. Can you help me?" **Bethany House can help**

**provide another option.**

All these stories are true, and there are so many more. For over 15 years, Bethany House has shined its beacon of light in an often dark and dreary world - a world that promotes and entices its youth to be sexual, yet cannot offer real solutions to the teen pregnancy epidemic. **There is hope. You can help!**

Bethany House becomes the safe home and family many of these women never had. We are able to touch two lives at a time, and generations beyond, by our proven program of love and accountability. Combined with counseling, education, training, and a supportive environment, this powerful combination of love and accountability have helped over 300 women re-enter society as productive mothers and women of character.

There are so many more hurting women and children who need our help. The operating costs for a shelter program of this magnitude are high. Qualified workers and volunteers are needed. We

can't bury our heads and pretend that a quality program is cheap. It's not. We believe in you, our neighbors and friends. We trust that you, too, care about helping women and their babies escape from abuse, poverty, addiction, and heartache. We have discovered people like you who agree we can't just send our dollars around the globe when there is so much suffering in our own backyards.

There is no good excuse for any pregnant woman in our state to be sleeping in a cardboard box when places like Bethany House exist and are prepared to expand their services. The only thing keeping us from serving more women and babies is a lack of consistent funding.

If you will help us, we will continue fighting for those who are unable to fight for themselves. We will improve our neighborhoods by training women to work and become productive members of our society, moving them away from the welfare trap. We will help break the cycle of abuse and homeless-

ness, two lives at a time.

We have our proven program and a well-working system in place. We are giving our all to help others. With caring people like you, we will continue to bring hope and healing to a hurting population. This holiday season, we are asking directly for your help. Please consider providing the best Christmas gift of all - life - new life. Your decision to give today will affect countless lives tomorrow.

Thank you and God bless you.

Beth E. Rhinehart  
Founder & Executive Director

P.S. All end-of-the-year gifts are tax deductible for 2005 if processed prior to December 31, 2005. Please visit our website for more information about Bethany House, or call to schedule a personal tour of our facility in the near future. [www.bethanyhousenet.org](http://www.bethanyhousenet.org)

**Ways You can Help!**

For more information about any of the following giving opportunities contact Carol Van Atta, Outreach & Development Coordinator (503) 667-8409 or E-mail: [bethanyhouse@qcsn.org](mailto:bethanyhouse@qcsn.org). Visit us on the Web: [www.bethanyhousenet.org](http://www.bethanyhousenet.org). Please tear-off section below and mail to:

**Bethany House**  
**PO Box 3278 Gresham, OR 97030**

Ways you can help Bethany House help others: I'm interested in contributing with the following:

Mark all that apply

- Volunteer Time
- Become a monthly partner Amount: \_\_\_\_\_
- Teach a skill
- Be a Big Sister
- Make a donation \$250 \_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- PRAY

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING

...BETHANY HOUSE CELEBRATED 15 YEARS OF TOUCHING TWO LIVES AT A TIME

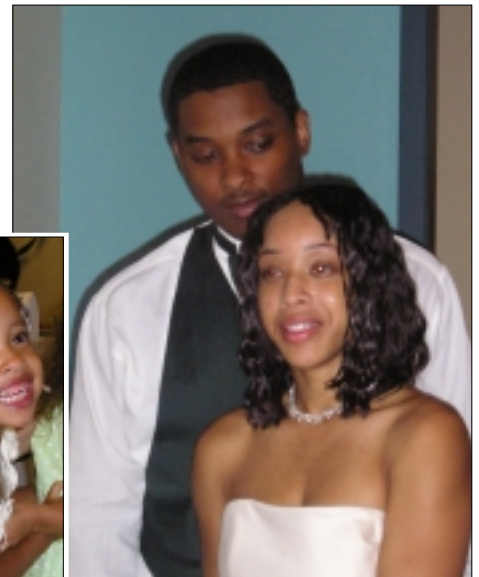


Bethany House residents celebrating together at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet. These beautiful young women are what this event was all about.

## ANORVIA'S HAPPY ENDING: AN UPDATE FROM A FORMER BETHANY HOUSE RESIDENT

Recently, Beth Rhinehart had the honor of attending a former resident's wedding. The future looks brighter than ever for this former Bethany House resident and mother of an adorable three-year-old girl. Anorvia shares openly about her life and how Bethany House has totally changed her. "My daughter Seriah was born on July 1, 2002 while I lived at Bethany House. She is a gem that never stops sparkling! We have expanded our family to

include a wonderful husband and daddy. Our family shines with the love of God. My husband is an incredible man, who I've known since childhood. He serves as the Youth Pastor at Highland United Church of Christ." Anorvia completed her program at Bethany House in fall 2002.



### **Come on board... Get involved!**

Bethany House is currently expanding its board of directors. Do you have a passion for young women and their unborn babies? Do you care about this organization enough to really get involved? Be a part of planning fundraisers, organizing events, developing new program ideas and getting together with a great group of dedicated professionals who

serve and support abundant life. If you would like to apply for an opening, please contact Beth Rhinehart (503) 667-8409.

### **Now Hiring Overnight House Mothers**

Bethany House is currently seeking qualified, caring women who want to make a difference in the lives of our women and

their babies. We offer a wonderful, paid ministry opportunity for you to serve in your community. Shifts are from 5 pm until 10 am week mornings. We also have monthly, weekend shifts available. Please note: you are not required to stay awake all night. Normal bedtime hours are in place. Contact Beth Rhinehart for an application packet: (503) 667-8409.



**KATIE**, the mother of a handsome baby boy named Elijah recently took some time to explain what Bethany House means to her and how the program has helped heal her past, and secure a more fruitful and productive future.

“Before I came to Bethany House I was close to nine months pregnant and had just gotten out of jail due to a nation-wide warrant. I came to Bethany House not knowing what to expect. I didn't imagine it would be a 'normal' household. The founder Beth Rhinehart interviewed me and I moved in a few days later. I found a very pleasant environment, kind of like a home away from home. A few weeks after I moved in, I gave birth to my beautiful baby boy, Elijah. After recovery, I started attending school for my GED obtained job training and completed my community service by volunteering for a Christian organization that provides meals for low income families. At Bethany House I have learned to form a healthier Godlier lifestyle for me and my son. I have mended things with my family and things in my life are finally coming together. If it wasn't for the love of Bethany House, I'd be in prison and not have my son. This program has been a huge blessing in my life. Thank you.”



**SADIA**, a young woman from Somalia has quite a story and we hope you, too, will see the miraculous work that has taken place in this young woman's life through Bethany House.

“Before I came to Bethany House, I was on the streets, sleeping on cardboard boxes. I had nowhere to go and I was five months pregnant. I didn't know what to do. I did not feel good one night and decided to go to the hospital. When the nurse asked for my address and I couldn't give her one, she suggested I contact Bethany House. That same day I spoke to Beth Rhinehart. That was the happiest day of my life. If not for their program, I wouldn't have my beautiful two-month old baby girl, Kalsan.



I will always be thankful for everything they have done for me. I am starting back to school to finish my last three high school credits and after that I plan to attend beauty school. Today, I have hope for my future, before Bethany House, I had none. Thank you.”

**LAURA** and Raelynn's family grew to embrace John Kroeger, a husband for Laura and a father for Raelynn, on September 24, 2005. The two met at a concert, where he was sitting in the next seat. They married on their one year anniversary with the blessing of both family and friends. Laura has a wonderful new family, a career, and an exciting future for her and her daughter.



Our annual picnic was a huge success. While this group was enjoying barbecued delicacies, Sadia was in the hospital recovering from giving birth to her daughter Kalsan. We saved her some left-overs!

## Bethany House Office

503-667-8409

Monday -Friday

9 am to 5 pm

visit us at

[www.bethanyhousenet.org](http://www.bethanyhousenet.org)

Please Email us if you would rather

receive this newsletter via e-mail

## Learn More! Speakers Available

If your church or group is interested in learning more about Bethany House, please call to schedule a professional presentation with Bethany House's Outreach Coordinator, Carol Van Atta. Expect not only information, but inspiration! PowerPoint and video presentations are available. Also, we now have our new

dramatic, informational, Bethany House video available. This is a wonderful tool to show at Bible studies, or other small groups interested in getting involved with a community organization. Discover who we are and how you can make a difference in the life a young woman and her child.

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### OUR NEED LIST:

- Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins)
- All types of cleaning products: Lysol Kitchen Cleaner, 409, Orange Dust Polish, Comet, Laundry soap, Fabric softeners, Dishwasher soap, liquid dish soap...etc.
- Personal Products: Deodorant, a variety of makeup-including face-foundations, facial cleansers, and moisturizer and more.
- Newborn diapers

- Light bulbs: 25, 40, 60 watts.
- Bus tickets or bus passes
- Retail and grocery gift cards
- Movie gift cards

### VOLUNTEER LIST:

- Big Sisters
- Transportation support
- Yard workers
- Handyman work
- Daytime house sitters
- Creative Skill Trainers



*A Very Merry Christmas  
from our House to yours*



*Bethany House*

P.O. Box 3278

Gresham, Oregon 97030