

# Bethany House Believes

## Away in a Manger



Every year we come face-to-face with another Christmas Season. And every year we must decide what to do about a story - a story of a baby in a manger - a baby that became the Savior of our world. The fact that God's Son came to us as a helpless infant demonstrates how significant little ones are to God the Father. Later, Jesus, too, talks about the importance of children and how we are to mirror them.

Birth. New life. New beginnings. Jesus was the ultimate New Beginning. Yet, even now, every time a baby is born hope rests within that new life. Every baby possesses his or her own unique DNA, talents, and special gifts. Every baby can become an adult that achieves greatness.

For twenty-plus years, Bethany House has supported and nourished new life. We have been a safe haven for young women in need of shelter and support.

When they found themselves alone and pregnant, our girls found the welcome mat of the world had been pulled out. Alone and afraid they often felt hopeless. But because of people like you, Bethany House was able to provide the home and help to heal broken hearts. Our legacy will continue as we embrace new, improved ways to support and serve wounded women and their children. But, as you know, we cannot do this alone. We count on friends like you to partner with us in our quest to touch two lives at a time with God's outrageous love and provision. We serve a Savior that is all about love, service, and giving, and we need your financial support this Christmas Season in order to move forward and expand our life-saving ministry. Please join us as we continue to be Christ's hands extended to hurting women and their children.

God bless you and Merry Christmas.

### Bethany House

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*People were bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

*Luke 18:15-15 INIV*

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## Twins: Two to Love

### Jessica's Story

*Hi, my name is Jessica and I am 21 yrs old and this is my Bethany House story. I was raised in a Christian home and I was always going to wait until I was married to have kids but that did not happen.*

March of 2008, I thought I was doing really well. I had found a good job as a live-in nanny in Portland and I was on my own, until I met the "great" guy that swept me off my feet; I took things too fast. I ended up moving in with him when I was no longer needed at my job and I gave away my virginity. I have always had a lot of problems in the past with self esteem and I thought here is someone who loves me for me, or so he said. I felt what I was doing was wrong but I did it anyway. I tried to run away from God and my family so I left for Texas on a greyhound bus in the middle of the night without telling. Big Mistake. We got to Texas and ended up staying in a rundown house filled with bugs and mice in a not so good neighborhood but I didn't care because I thought I was with the man I was going to marry and that he would get a job and make us a life there. I was so dead wrong. He had already been through two dead end jobs and was not actively searching for another one. He started smoking pot on a regular basis even though I tried to get him to stop and he started having two personalities. I would be talking to a sweet loving guy, and then I would say something wrong and he would just flip out and yell at me even hit me at times.

Then came the day I found out I was pregnant with twins and like most girls I thought this would make things better but it didn't in fact things got worse. With my hormones raging and the mood swings the fighting and violence escalated. It finally took his older sister to tell me that I needed to leave. I told him I was going to stay at her house overnight and of course he flipped out. The next morning I called my father and he got me a plane ticket home for Christmas Day. *(Jessica's story concludes below)*



#### A NOTE FROM FORMER RESIDENT, TAJ

*I came to Bethany House on 2/23/2009; my stay at Bethany House was an awakening to another chapter in my life. I learned what it really meant to be part of a well functioning family. As I was preparing for motherhood, I learned it takes a lot of organization, preparation and teaching from those who have been mothers for many years. I have now moved on to yet another phase in my life which is motherhood, and although there are challenges, it is very rewarding. My son Santonio was born on 8/10/2009 and he is the light of my life. My walk with God has been strengthened and I am learning newfound wisdom that I never thought possible, and I contribute this to the fact that I am surrounded by great spiritual influences in my life. Thank you to everyone who helped me on my journey.*

#### *(Jessica's Story Continued)*

I found out later in my pregnancy that one of my twins was going to be physically handicapped having no feet or hands. This situation had taken a toll physically, emotionally, as well as spiritually. I did not want to live with my parents but could not find a job. An elder in my church told me about Bethany House. I had an interview and was accepted into the program. I learned so much from the leadership, staff, and even the other residents. I learned time management, communication skills and much, much more. I know my faith is much stronger now; in fact I rededicated my life to Christ on January 10, 2009, and I want to give my children the best life possible.



**The New Vision — Be part of the future**

Friends, we want to update you on some very important decisions. After a session with our visioning team, the input of the board and other associated ministries, we have concluded that it is time to take the **next big step, Phase II**. It has always been the heart of this ministry to make a deeper impact on these precious lives with an extended program.

One thing that is very clear — our current location is not sufficient. It is time to “Enlarge the place of thy **tent**, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy **stakes**;  
**Isaiah 54:2** .

Moving on from this home, the birth place of Bethany House, is a lot like leaving the home where you raised your family. With the glowing memories of over 800 young mothers and babies, and the tireless army of volunteers and supporters that continually blessed this home it is painful to pack up, but we must move on and leave that which is behind, but never forgotten.

We are still exploring how to best function through this time of transition and the steps we must embrace to make the move successfully. We have already cleaned up the House and are placing it on the market. We will comb through our experiences over the past 20 years and make revisions and creative changes to our procedures and protocols. We are also renewing our focus on sponsor families to help during the transition.

**Sponsor Families — that’s where you can join us. Do you have a heart for serving pregnant women? A woman with a small**

**Thank you Bethany House supporters Mark and Anita!**



**This awesome couple has supported the program, not only financially, but also by bringing diapers for our mothers who are struggling in the current economy. They’ve provided premie cloths, baby bottles, a stroller/car seat combo, food, advice on grant writing, and a whole lot more! We appreciate you two.**

**child? Do you have room in your home and heart to temporarily welcome a young mother into your family? If so, you may want to consider sponsoring a Bethany House resident during our transition to a new, improved location.**

**Don’t worry! You will not be “going it alone.” Not even close. Beth will continue to provide the intensive services to each and every client, as well as, offering any needed support or encouragement for your family as you serve in this capacity.**

**Family living has always been, and will continue to be the heart of Bethany House’s program. Your family will model “family-hood” to a young woman during a challenging, yet exciting time in her life. The rewards you receive from this act of love will impact your family for eternity. This truly is an extension of being God’s hands extended to one of His hurting children.**

**To learn more about this life-changing opportunity, contact Beth Rhinehart at 503.667.8409.**

**YES! I WOULD LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT BETHANY HOUSE WITH AN END OF YEAR DONATION.**

I am enclosing a gift of \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill my credit card \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

My name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Tell me more about sponsoring a woman \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_





Bethany House

# Bethany House, Inc.

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Gresham, OR 97030

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In addition, \$10 from each package ordered goes to support Bethany House. One certificate per session, cannot combine with other offers. Expires February 20, 2010

FAMILIES | CHILDREN | BABIES | PETS | WEDDINGS | CHRISTMAS PACKAGES | THEMED CHILDRENS PORTRAITS



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**Our Annual Picnic was a great success  
The above pictures were taken that day.**