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Merry Christmas!



From your friends at Bethany House

Christmas is such a special season. It is the one time of year when we come together to celebrate family, friends, and most importantly the birth of the One who makes our lives worth living — Jesus Christ. Bethany House has had a year of changes and challenges, but a year worth celebrating. God has done miraculous things through our ministry. Let's celebrate just a few of God's miracles, together, as 2010 comes to a close.



Return Service Requested



Oh what an amazing year! God has once again proven that He can and does meet our needs. With your help, Bethany House has served over 25 family members this past year. Our ministry has expanded with the use of sponsor families, all of which are now full to capacity following the placement of our newest mom-to-be. We've provided services not only to pregnant women and single moms with children, but have also helped parents, grandparents, and friends find resources and provided the counseling needed to help them help the wounded women in their lives. What an awesome experience to see families changed as they learn how to support their loved ones through such difficult circumstances. We need more sponsor families to join our mission. We hope the stories shared in this newsletter will inspire you this Holiday Season. We at Bethany House wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Let's make 2011 another year to remember. God bless you!



This is the baby we just placed in a Sponsor Family. While he's growing in mom, she can experience the growth she needs in the safety of their new home.

What our families need:
 Call 503.667.8409 for a detailed list



Celebrating how sponsor families help: My name is going to remain anonymous. I had a really good childhood except for a few things that happened when I was a child. That is only between me and my therapist. We lived in a nice house in what at the time was a good neighborhood. After a while the neighborhood started to go down hill; it became the ghetto. Most of the young people that went to my school and lived in my neighborhood were statistics. If you weren't the one out of four that were graduating, you were either going to end up dead, in jail, an addict, a struggling teen mom, or a drug dealer and/or gang member. One of my middle school teachers gave us those statistics before sending us off to high school. He told us some of us might not live to see 11th grade or age 17.

My life has been bittersweet ever since age sixteen. Two weeks after my sixteenth birthday, I lost one of my best friends ever, my mom. Later that year, I was sent to live with a family member. It didn't work out well. I hated going home after school. Sometimes I'd wish I could stay at school. I ended up running away. I hated being pushed around, teased and mentally abused. Families are not supposed to be like that.



I called a friend and told her I'd had enough. I ran around the empty house rushing to gather and pack the things I needed. My friend and her foster dad arrived shortly to pick me up. I crashed at their place for two days, and then headed to Reno where my best friend lived. You could say I did a lot of acting out at nineteen. I partied a lot, got my first tattoo, lost my virginity, and graduated high school.

In 2008, I moved to Hawaii. My best friend and I went to Waikiki to go to clubs, drink, dance, and meet military guys.

Story Continued Next Page

The Future of Bethany House ... Phase II will offer the following:

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.

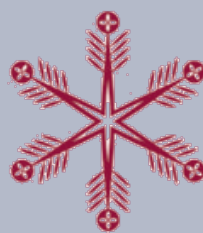
Individual case management and goal setting.

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.



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I love Hawaii not because of the parties; the spirit of Aloha is all around. The people and the way of life are laid back. People are great and everyone's friendly like family and it just feels like home. If you've ever lived there then you know what I mean.

When I was in Hawaii I met a guy named Mark, he was a handsome man who always knew what to say. I got pregnant shortly after we met. He really encouraged me to get an abortion because he wasn't ready to be a father. I told him I wanted to do adoption. Things didn't work out between us. We both went our separate ways.

I contacted an adoption agency by the name of Journey's of the Heart. The agency flew me to Oregon on March 18th 2010. I picked out a family whom I adored so much. On May 21, 2010, at around 5:30 a.m. I went into labor. Later that day, at 8:46 p.m. I gave birth to a 4lb, 8oz baby girl. Afterwards I cried because I knew I couldn't do it. I'm not an emotional person, really, but I looked into her eyes and my heart melted and I decided to keep her.



So the agency had to cut me off. I began searching for places that could take me in until I found a place to live. A woman from the agency gave me a small list of numbers that I could call for help. One of those numbers was Bethany House, a place that helps young women like me. I called Bethany House and talked to a woman named Beth and told her about my situation. Within days she called back and told me she had a family for me to meet. On May 28, 2010, I moved in with the Bennett's. They are a great family who help me out a lot. I would like to take time out and give them a big **THANK YOU**. Thank you Nancy, Jon, Shelby, and Macaela, you have done so much for me and my baby. Today we have hope and a new beginning.



Loving like Christ

Nancy's Bennett's Story: Once upon a time, about 23 years ago, I found myself in a rather desperate situation. A number of poor decisions had left me with what appeared to be no hopeful options. I recall clearly my audible cry "God, I know you are there, and only you can help me out of this mess I have made. Please, help me." Even at that moment, already His plan was in action to deliver me and put my feet on firm ground. Within two days a home was opened to me as a stable, safe place to get myself headed in the right direction. From that time on, I have had a desire to be used by our heavenly Father, and to be His hands, feet, and even home for girls and women facing desperate situations.

Early this year I heard of a friend who was becoming a Sponsor Family with Bethany House. We talked as a family about how having a single mom and her newborn would be different then having a high school exchange student, and how too it would be similar: loving them like Jesus would. So we contacted Beth at Bethany House and asked to complete the application process.

Counting short term foster care and exchange students, we have had over 50 teenage girls stay with us, anywhere from one night to one year. Each has been a special experience for us. But having this young lady here has been such a precious gift from God. I have been so blessed by her sweet, gentle, patient, gracious, grateful manner.

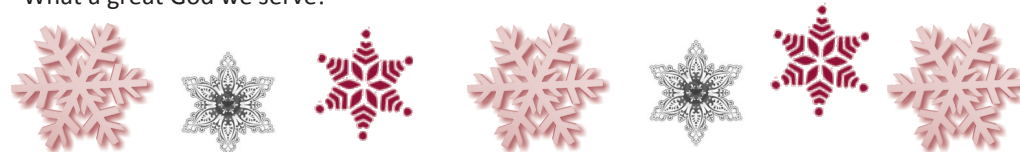
When I observe how she goes from day to day, hour to hour, willingly seeking to contribute to the household operations, I am humbled. Whatever I have asked of her, whether in baby care, goal setting, or chores, she has always done with a cheerful disposition.



When I first met this young lady she was staying in a hotel room with her 6-day old baby. This young woman was figuring out all that needed to be done, on her own, in a hotel room, with no family or friends to help. I brought them to our home for a night so they could get a feel for our family and so we could talk about the covenant that would be.

That was nearly six months ago. There have been many medical appointments for her and baby. She has taken a Learn & Earn class from the Pregnancy Care Center nearly every week. She has prepared to go to the local community college's adult diploma program and has started class. She has also participated in a local weight loss support group and she has made a few new friends, too. All that while she has cared for a (sometimes FUSSY) newborn.

Having this young lady and her son has blessed our family richly. I could not have asked for a more suitable match. In fact, I had specifically asked God to use us in this ministry, and to please make us a good match. And how gracious has our Father been, to bring our lives together for a time. She will need continued support as she matures and prepares for her future. While I am not certain how long they will be in our home, I am certain that her being here has been part of God's plan, a plan that began long, long ago. That just amazes me: He has always known that she would be here with us, blessing us, enriching our lives. What a great God we serve!



Merry Christmas! We are so blessed to be partnered with you and appreciate your faithful giving. This Christmas Season we want to pray for you and honor the One who is behind the work we share together, serving the "least of these," women and children who need a place to call home and the tools to live successfully. Together, we share the reward of helping them find healing and hope.

As a nation, we are living through a time of tremendous financial volatility. Banks are going bankrupt. Millions are losing their homes to foreclosure. And the stock markets worldwide are declining. It feels, for many of us, as if making a difference in the middle of this mess is simply not possible. We disagree. The way to make a difference is to start small. We can positively affect one family in dire need with even a small gift. Bethany House will ensure your donation makes a tangible, life-changing difference in the lives of women and children.

So, if year-end giving is on your mind, please consider us. Even if you cannot give right now, you can still be significant ... as an electronic monthly partner for Bethany House. Faithful consistency each month allows us to focus on single women and their precious children. We don't have to do constant fundraising activities, which is such a distraction from our primary purpose. Monthly support, in any amount, truly makes a difference.

There is no amount too small ... simply ask the Lord what He would have you give. That is the amount we need. May God Bless you as you serve.



Directors Corner

I want to personally thank all our dedicated Sponsor Families for making Bethany House the unique program it is, for loving women and children and modeling what a healthy family looks like. You are profoundly changing lives. I celebrate your generosity and grace.

Monthly Supporters, we couldn't function without your diligent support. Your steadfast giving, despite economic challenges, proves that God is indeed at work and blessing those so in need of His love.

Thank you, All!

Beth



To make your end of year donation or to become a monthly partner using our secure online giving system, visit:

www.bethanyhousenet.org

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