



## WELCOME

*Our  
Newest  
Resident*

## ASHLEE

Before I moved into Bethany House, I lived with my mom, who was a drug user, and my step-father, who was an alcoholic and abusive.

Two years ago, I had a child, a daughter, whom the State removed from me at six months old, because of my own drug problem. The State laid out certain requirements before she could be returned to me: Attend parenting classes, take random drug test, attend drug and alcohol treatment, get a job and find a safe environment/home for my child. You would have thought that I would have done these things for my child, but with the combination of drugs fogging my brain



Left: Ashlee's daughter (her first baby).

and my lacking family support, I failed.

Before long, I found out I was pregnant-again. By the time I was about 5 \_ months pregnant, I heard about Bethany House. I scheduled an appointment with the director and

housemother and went for an interview. I was scared that they would not accept me. I was wrong they wanted to help me in every way possible. I moved into Bethany House January 6, 2004. I wasn't sure what was in store for me,

but I knew I wanted to better myself and my relationship with God. I made a promise to myself not to leave, so I could give them a chance to help me in every way they could. They provided me a safe, nurturing and encouraging environment, which, in turn, has given me a new outlook on life. I have a renewed hope for myself and my children. Being at Bethany House has been the most positive experience in my life. I have quit using drugs and am turning my life around at this very moment as will as building a relationship with my birth father. Thank you for providing a safe environment at Bethany House.



### Babies Soon to Arrive...

Waiting the arrival of Ashlee's baby



### Director's Desk

Exciting new changes are in the works at Bethany House. Read all the details INSIDE.



### Did You Know...

Our annual Mother's Day Radio-thon is coming. Read more on the BACK.



### Special Feature...

Read the update on past resident, Kari and her twin girls... INSIDE

# h, How They've Grown



Back in September, of 1993, a 15-year-old, pregnant girl, with no where to go, walked through our doors. She was a sight to behold, with half of her hair shaved, wearing grungy clothing and army boots (and we can't forget the cute nose ring). She stood out; however, we knew

she had a soft heart and a true desire to be a loving mother. After the interview, Keri was extremely relieved and excited when she was invited to stay at Bethany House. Keri needed lots of love, guidance and discipline in her life to make her a secure, confident young lady and mother.

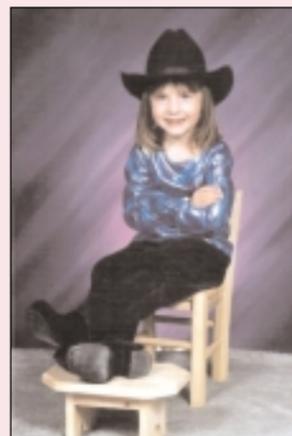
After an ultrasound at a routine doctor's visit, Keri was shocked to learn that she was expecting twin girls. She was unprepared for one baby, let alone two. She was terrified! She had just turned 16, had no idea what was going to happen, nor what she was going to do. Keri came home that night full of fear and uncertainty. Sitting on her bed that evening, she realized this was bigger than she could handle alone, and asked the Lord into her heart.

On February 21, 1994, she was admitted into the hospital, 3 months pre-mature, with Toxemia. However, on February 24, she gave birth to two beautiful baby girls: Katy, 2 \_ pounds and Maggie, 3 \_ pounds. Keri traveled to the hospital every day by bus, until they were able to come home.



Ten years later and now in fourth grade, Katie and Maggie are both beautiful and healthy girls. They enjoy participating in school sports school and love raising chickens, ducks, lizards, cats and whatever else catches their interest.

*Keri's mother wrote Bethany House recently: I am the grandma of Katy and Maggie, twin girls that were born on 2/25/94. If it were not for the Bethany House I am not sure what we would have done. My daughter, Keri, lived there, during and after her pregnancy. She was 16 years old at that time and very troubled. Last summer Beth called and asked us to come to their annual picnic, which I am sorry we missed. I just wanted to say that this is a wonderful ministry. Thank you for the help you have given my daughter and my beautiful 10 year old, twin grand-daughters. ~Patty*



## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

A number of special events brightened our Christmas this past year. The Gresham Downtown Association picked Bethany House to be the recipients of the giving tree at Jazzy Bagels sponsored and decorated by the Gresham boy scouts. We received baby items and household needs. Also, a very special woman, Dolores Kroker, who is a resident at the Marquis Care Center at Centennial, had a wish to share gifts with people in need. Activities Director, Susan Bowker, assisted her in coordinating the event. Several businesses from the Gresham Station shopping center donated toys, kid's books, children's clothing, cosmetics and women's clothing. Dressed as Mrs. Clause, Dolores was escorted in a limousine to Bethany House, bringing smiles to both past and present residents of Bethany House and their children.

## E·X·P·A·N·D·I·N·G O·U·R·B·O·R·D·E·R·S

Over the past 13 years we have opened our doors to 300+ young single expectant mothers. We have seen many healthy babies born to Bethany House, and we are extremely blessed. Those girls that completed the program at Bethany House have become loving mothers, continuing their education and graduating with honors, giving back to the community, and become successful business women.

As we looked over the trends of the last few years and spoke with other maternity homes in the area, we came to the same conclusion. The teen pregnancy rate has dropped over the last two years, and other homes, like ours, were no longer full but having one girl at a time. Although the need for a loving home such as Bethany House is still great, we feel that we are being led to a time of transition.

The main focus and mission of Bethany House will remain faithfully to the single expectant young women and their babies, but we feel led to expand our borders and open the doors wider. This next year we will also accept teen mothers who find themselves in need of services to get their feet back on solid ground. There are many instances where young women have their children taken away because of drug and or alcohol addictions, not being able to provide a safe and stable home environment for their children or just the simple fact that they are without the means to support themselves and their children. Bethany House feels led to help these young women. With our programs already in place to provide instruction and education, we feel that this is a good transition.

Recently we have found single pregnant women who are above our age limit of 25, in need. We wish also to offer our services to these women, any pregnant woman, on a case-by-case decision.

Please pray for us as we venture into new territory and extend our boundaries as only the Lord can. If you know of any woman in need, please remember Bethany House is a Home offering education, love and safety for all who come.

*Beth R. Smith*



*In January of 2003, the Gresham Safeway, located on Division chose us as a recipient of their Charity of the Year. We were able to place 'Baby Bottle Banks' at each register for the entire year. During that time members of the community were able to read about Bethany House at each check-out stand and make monetary donations in the bank. On February 6 2004, Manager Glen Grantholme presented Bethany House with a check for \$3,500. We would like to thank everyone who donated to Bethany House during this time, and a special thanks to the employee's at the Gresham Safeway for making a difference.*

*We were also blessed by Catholic Charities in the amount of \$1,500.00 for food and drinks for the home. We are very grateful for their support and for all of you that pour out your generosity every month for our young women.*

### CAN YOU HELP?

**Garage Sale:** *Would your church, organization or you as an individual like to have a garage sale to benefit Bethany House this spring or summer? If you are interested in being at blessing please contact the office at 503-667-3259 and speak with Beth.*

**United Way Donor Option Plan:** *If your employer is a United Way giver, you can designate your donation to go directly to Bethany House. Just ask your United Way representative for a Donor Option card. You may contribute a one-time gift or donate regularly on a payroll deduction. Even though Bethany House is not a member of the organization, this is a great way to "direct" where your donation goes and we appreciate your help.*



**BANQUET:** Our banquet is coming up on October 23, at the Sheraton Airport Hotel so mark your calendar for a great night out. If you would like to purchase a table early give us a call and we will reserve your space.

**RADIO-THON:** In May we will have our annual Mothers Day radio-thon on KPDQ 93.7 at 8:00 AM to raise finances to support the home. Joining us will be past and present residents, house staff, board members, Pastor Les Moore from Shekinah Christian Ministries and Beth Rhinehart the Founder and Director. Jan Weston from Weston Pontiac Kia will again challenge listeners and businesses with a \$1,000.00 match. So stay tuned for more details in our Mothers Day letter.

The Bethany House Newsletter is a quarterly publication written to inspire and inform you of the many wonderful experiences we have with our young mothers-to-be.

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## Bethany House

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