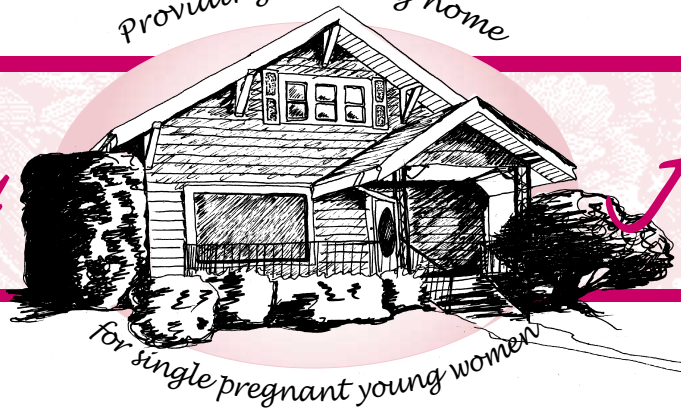


Providing a loving home

Bethany House



for single pregnant young women

Tara



Shortly after leaving Bethany House and having my daughter Abigail in June 2002, I felt called to help young, troubled women. A year later I finished college and was working full time, but did not feel that it was time for me to help yet. Recently, after becoming a full time stay at home mom and having my second daughter in November, my husband encouraged me to get involved somehow. One morning I found myself dialing the phone number to Life Services in Spokane. They offer pregnancy tests, counseling, adoption services, and a home for 9 single pregnant women. I start my training on January 19, 2005 to

become a mentor and counselor. Lord willing, I would like to open a home for young women in the Coeur d'Alene area in approximately 10 years. I saw what a difference Bethany House made in my life, and I can't wait for the Lord to guide me in this area of ministry that is needed so desperately for young women today. Bethany House literally opened my eyes to my true calling from the Lord. Thank you Beth and to all of the supporters of this wonderful ministry!

"I saw what a difference Bethany House made in my life, and I can't wait for the Lord to guide me in this area of ministry..."



SPRING 2005 EDITION



Sarah's Story of Courage

I was living in Northern California with my fiancé and his family when he started doing drugs, going to parties, and started to treat me badly. I was 3 months pregnant and hoping his behavior would change. I put up with it for about 4 more months. When I hit my 7 month mark of pregnancy, I couldn't take it anymore. It was to the point where I got very depressed and felt sick to my stomach everyday. I knew I needed to leave but did not have a place to go. I left California and went to Port Angeles, Washington where my mother lived in a very small trailer. I knew I couldn't live there because it was not a safe place for me and my baby. I left 3 days later for Portland, Oregon where I looked into resources and found Bethany House. It was just what I needed to help me out of my difficult situation. I found the best place I could be was Bethany House. The staff, volunteers, and everyone who stepped foot in that house helped me in ways I could never have helped myself. They were so friendly and nice. The house is big, clean and decorated to feel like home. My son is now 2 months old and if it wasn't for the people at Bethany House, I do not know where I would be today. Thank you,

Sarah



P.S. Sarah moved out when Curtis was one month old and was living with her sister which was not going so well. Sarah started looking for another place to live, but realized there was no place for her to go. She called in a panic one night and asked if she could come home to Bethany House. We were delighted to accept them back with open arms. Sarah is actively pursuing her GED and part time work. This situation reinforces our desire to provide aftercare housing for mothers and their new babies.



Heartfelt Thanks

We'd like to extend a big Thank You to those of you who responded to the appeal letter that was sent out last Fall by Brian Vroom, our Board President. The donations received as a result of the letter have helped offset some of the costs that our deficit has left us with. While our financial state has improved slightly, we continue to ask for prayer and your financial support to this ministry. We are so blessed by faithful people like you who care and love the girls that come through Bethany House. We are trusting the Lord to provide all that is needed in order to help more young women and their babies in 2005.

We want to extend a special note of gratitude to Sharon Ernst, our interim housemother and long-time supporter. She graciously filled in at the home for three months until we were able to build up a staff that is fully operating now. We appreciate all the ways she showed love to the girls, including throwing a baby shower for Sarah and her baby Curtis. Thank you for everything, Sharon!

Thank you to the many others that gave gifts for Sarah's baby shower including women from the Beta Sigma Phi organization.

Home for Logan

Lindsey gave birth to Logan on July 19, 2004 and in November she decided to give him a better chance at life through adoption.

This story began on November 8 when we received a call from my aunt who is in a Bible Study with Logan's Grandma Karen.

Karen, who is a strong believer, was asking for prayer concerning a court proceeding the next day. She asked for guidance from God and also if anyone knew of a family that could adopt Logan. Karen and her husband Jerry do missionary dentistry and are unable to raise Logan. My Aunt mentioned to her that we have been trying to adopt for the past four years and that we are a solid Christian family.

During the court proceeding, the judge granted Karen temporary 30 day custody with the expectation of finding a suitable home. We prayed about it and on November 13 we met Logan for the first time. Earlier that same day I was straightening up a table in my office and happened to glance at the cover story in the fall issue of the Bethany House newsletter. As I glanced at it I noticed the name "Lindsey" at the bottom. I skimmed through and saw the name "Logan" and put two and two together. I rushed out to show my wife and we were not only amazed but convinced that this was confirmation. That night we met with Karen, Jerry and precious little Logan and the bond was instantaneous. Logan didn't cry once. He was so loving, we fell in love with him that night. We knew there was another couple that the Klein's were meeting with and Lindsey still had the last word, so we prayed and God gave us the most incredible peace.

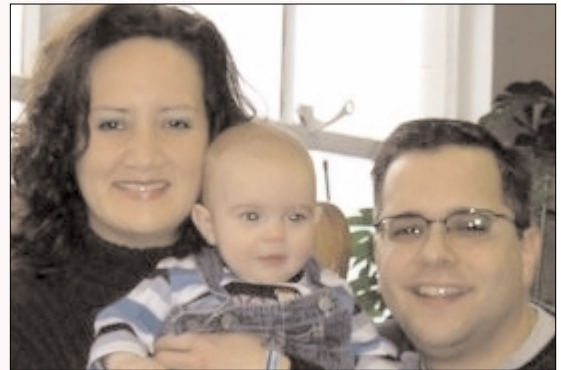
On November 18 Karen called with the good news, Lindsey had chosen us. The next week we went to the adoption agency and met Lindsey. She reminded us of one of our youth group kids. We had a great dinner with the four of them and then parted ways.

On December 2 we went to court where Lindsey signed over her rights allowing us to take our precious gift from God home. Karen and Jerry joined us for

dinner and said their goodbyes to their little angel. They told us that God had given them peace at our first meeting and they made their decision before they reached the end of our street.

This has been a true blessing, not just for us but many others as well. We have a great church family that is rejoicing with us, and even threw a "Meet The Parents" party where the Klein's were able to fellowship with people from our congregation. Karen and my Aunt Carolyn shared how God orchestrated this entire event.

After twelve years years of marriage, eight years of



trying to have a child, four mis-carriages, and numerous attempts at adopting, the Lord put this little one in our home at His perfect timing. We gave Logan the middle name of Makana' Akua which in Hawaiian means "Gift from God" and he truly is. We have seen God move powerfully and decisively. His fingerprints are all over this little one's life.

Mellanie and I would like to thank you for being part of Logan's life and we will keep you updated on his adventures. Within three weeks our lives changed forever. What a blessing!!!

In His Gracious Grip,
Russ & Mellanie Baley

Corrections

In the last newsletter we reported on the Weston Pontiac fundraiser. Unfortunately not all of the organizations that graciously contributed were mentioned. A big thank you for everyone that gave door prizes: Cascade Athletic Club, Sunnys Donuts, Salishan Spa & Golf Resort, The Outlook, Amy Jones Massage Therapist, Dr. Vroom Chiropractic, Riegelmann,s Appliance, The Sign Shop, 104.1 the Fish, Utopia Salon & Day Spay, The Main Street Ale House, Hillcrest Sports, Bryant Station, The Mop Shop, Cafe Delirium, Ain't Misbehaving.



Changes at Bethany House

The Bethany House Office has recently moved back into the home. The contact number is 503-667-8409.

The office hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm

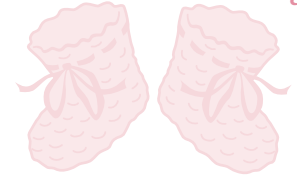
In Kind Donations are taken Monday-Friday from: 9:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday 9:00am to 1:00pm with appointment only.



WITH GREAT APPRECIATION...

We are continually humbled and amazed by the incredible generosity of our friends and supporting churches and organizations. THANK YOU to everyone who stopped by during the Christmas season. It was wonderful to connect with many of you and we greatly appreciate the gifts that were given! A special thank you to Reynolds High School who helped stock our shelves with food – what a blessing! We also enjoyed a visit from Jeanette, Wendy, and Stephanie (pictured above) who kindly gave Christmas presents to the ladies and baby in our home.

Our New Arrival



Ashley Sophia
Born to Ilia Spitzer
Born 1/29/05
Weight 8lbs 3 oz's



Bethany House

P.O. Box 3278
Gresham, Oregon 97030

Bethany House Office 503-667-8409
Monday -Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
visit us at www.bethanyhousenet.org