



Bethany House Celebrates Moms Everyday!

May is the month when we as a nation “officially” honor mothers. Bethany House has been in the mom-honoring business for over three decades, and we need your help to continue our mission. Something that makes our program unique is our lifetime support. The women and children we serve are part of the Bethany House family always, not just for a few weeks, months or years; not just on holidays like Mother’s Day; and not just when times are good. We stand with our clients through it all, just like a dedicated mom stands by her children with unconditional love. Below are two stories that demonstrate why what we’ve done in the past and continue to do today matters more than ever as we move into the future.

Bethany House Girl Forever

I (Carrie Ann) am and always have been Bethany House girl. That definition has stuck with me as God’s plans unfolded through the years. When my Grandparents showed me an article about Bethany House 25 years ago, I was hesitant to say the least. I was 19, rebellious, and expecting my daughter. Beth Rhinehart met with me, and she accepted me into the program, and then over the years into her heart.



My daughter was born October 20, 1994, healthy and perfect. Bethany House introduced me to a local church, parenting skills, and I finished high school. My life was back on track, and I had accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I eventually came to work and volunteer for Bethany house. I found my husband and we were married in 1996, expecting our son a year later. Life for me and my family was expanding and overflowing.

When my husband lost his job in 2009, I had been drifting for some time. Our son had become ill, and our entire life shifted. I think as children of the kingdom we either press in or check out. My relationship with God was slim to none. I was angry, frustrated, and demanding answers. I wanted to know God was there, but I could not feel him. I walked away. My husband and I moved to Carson City, Nevada, in May of 2010, for a fresh start and new job opportunities. Nevada the first few years was a rugged experience without family close by or a support system of friends. It was then I began doing things in my own strength, experiencing the loneliness and bitterness that comes from trying to do it all alone.

Beth never stopped being there for me or my family. She would speak God’s truth to me even when I didn’t want to hear it, still mentoring me and loving me even in the literal desert. My son was diagnosed with a serious mental health condition, which changed our lives. My husband and I came close to divorce many times, and our relationship with our daughter was shattered in so many ways. We endured trauma that would tear many families to ribbons, yet even in the mess God whispered in my ear, “I am here.” Our son attempted suicide more times than I can count, and our daughter was just trying to be a regular kid. Time passed and our son’s health continued to spiral. And I refused to submit to God. I was angry and didn’t realize how much I needed God until we lost everything. I am here to tell you, God says you can start again, and I did. I began praying. Jesus gave me a strong desire to make amends with Beth and my connection to a program that has never floundered in their support of me.

I got back into God’s Word and gave my life to Jesus. I am born again, and life is falling into place. His word promises in Philippians 1:6 that he who began a good work in me will see it through to completion. All those years ago when Bethany House led me to my Father, it was only the beginning! Bethany house has been a foundation and a constant source of support to me and my entire family. Prompted by God’s vision, Beth created a program that helps women and children in the community, a program that has spanned most of my life. I am 43 now and still working with young women in a corrections facility in

Nevada. My marriage is getting back on track, and I am in the process of finishing my Associate's Degree and pursuing my Masters in Social Work. Our daughter Liza is successful, hard working and with God's help our family is healing. My life has come full circle and I am excited about what God has in store for me in this new chapter of my life. I will never again forget where my life was introduced to God's tremendous grace. He put me on his path the day I walked through the doors of Bethany house. I will be forever thankful to Beth (or as I have always called her—Mom) and all of those who have believed in and supported this program throughout the years. Bethany House changed my life forever.

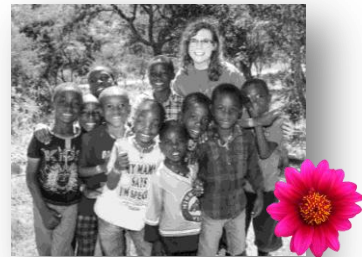
Sponsor Family for Life



Thirty years ago Bethany House introduced us to a disheveled, pregnant, 17-year-old "throw away" child, Jo. Shortly after she finished her program with Bethany House and started college, she gave birth to a beautiful daughter, and we became one of Bethany House's first Sponsor Families.

For almost 3 years they lived and grew with our family. Jo went on to college at Multnomah and her daughter became the envy of the neighborhood as we would take our late afternoon walks. I was her 'Papa' and she was my little Summer. Soft and gentle, trusting and attentive, her beautiful red curls had grown down to her chubby round shoulders; she was the spitting image of Shirley Temple, only better. All too soon, a good man came into Jo's life. It was hard to let go, but I gave Jo to Dennis and with her my title of 'Papa'. They have since brought two more beautiful girls into the world and moved to another city.

Our girl went on to graduate from Texas State University and became a teacher. She also continues her annual mission projects in Africa. She grew to be an inspirational, godly, beautiful and productive young woman. We are very proud to have held her in our life. She is a gift to a better world.



I have supported Bethany House since 1986. It was just a dream in the heart of Beth Rhinehart. We have watched it grow from a vision into what it is today; a God given success being modeled around the world. We have watched it grow from a handful of girls and a few supporters into an army of godly young ladies and an armada of dedicated and involved backers. We have watched as a few precious seeds were snatched from the frigid grasp of "Choice" and have become a thousand points of light sown against the darkness. And when I am confronted with those silly, philosophical arguments about the 'value' of life, I pull the edge worn picture from my wallet and explain to them that I could never imagine a year without sunshine nor a life without Summer. That was our baby's name; Summer, and she will forever be a ray of Sunshine to warm our memories. We will always support Bethany House and their wonderful crew as they battle on the front lines! Would you become a Sponsor Family?

We have so many stories like the ones you just read, and we must continue helping women escape the clutches of poverty, homelessness, violence, lack of education, addictions, and so much more. With your help we can provide lifetime support to women and children. We hope you will join us or continue to partner with us on this special journey.

Blessing Always,

PO Box 3278, Gresham, OR 97080 // **Email:** bethanyhouse1@gmail.com
Phone: 503.667.8409 // **Online at:** www.bethanyhousenet.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bethany-House-201883746521268/>