

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

Bethany House

Thank you!

To all of you who generously responded to our recent plea for help. You're amazing!

In response to your giving, we can now keep our doors open through October. You heard our cry and gave sacrificially. Who knows how many lives will be saved because of your continued commitment. God bless you!

Bethany House Still Needs you!

We're not out of the woods yet!

Three local maternity homes have closed in the past several months. We do not want Bethany House to join the ranks of these ministries. We know you don't either.

Help us keep the hope alive for pregnant young women by continuing to support Bethany House with your time, talent, and treasure.



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Baby Blessings for Tonya. A Modern Miracle

I was born and raised in Idaho. The first few years of my life were very lonely. **My real mom was a meth addict**, as was my dad, when he wasn't in jail or prison. Unfortunately, my loneliness wasn't replaced with something better, **instead, I was taken by the state and placed in one abusive foster home after another.** Finally, when I was 8, I got the wonderful news I was finally going to be adopted. **Was it possible that the nightmare I had been living would soon come to an end?** Little did I know, that my so-called dream-come-true was just the beginning of a nightmare that would last 8 long years. **The abuse I endured from my adoptive parents made those 18 foster homes look like heaven.** One afternoon, I was late returning home and was hit with an object so hard that I only remember the first blow. When I woke I was being rushed to the hospital. After this incident, I was placed back in the foster system where I went to four more homes

and a group home. After I turned 18, **my real dad got out of prison, found me and we moved in together.** I honestly thought that this was my chance to have a real family.



This was not the case; instead we did drugs together, and committed crimes right up until I was arrested. Then my dad was locked up again, this time for murder. **Lost and confused, I jumped head first into the drug world.** A lifeline was thrown out to me by a high school friend, who invited me to move to Portland. The offer came with a

job and housing. Since I was 5 months pregnant, homeless, jobless, and hopeless, I agreed and hopped on the first bus I could, but discovered that due to my criminal history, I was not allowed to live in the place I had planned to call home. **I was ready to just give up but this friend had already donated to Bethany House and knew about the ministry.** She asked me to give it a try. Well, that was in November of 2007, and thanks to Bethany House giving me a chance at a different life, **I am now the proud mom of a beautiful baby girl named Jozlyn Marie. Jozlyn was born on February 26th 2008.** While living here at Bethany House, I've learned the importance of living a life that includes God, making wise choices, and I am working on building healthy relationships with trustworthy people. **I honestly believe if it weren't for Bethany House I would be neck deep in the drug world, and my daughter would be in state care. I can't find the words to properly describe how incredibly grateful I am and will always be to Bethany House and their supporters.** *Tonya*



Grief Tips

We at Bethany House realize that many young women like young Rachel, will experience tragedy in their lives. We'd like to offer some tips that can be shared for overcoming grief.

Visit this very informative website:
http://www.helpguide.org/mental/grief_loss.htm

Most importantly:

1. Allow yourself to feel your feelings
2. Take care of your physical health
3. Seek support from others
4. Cry when you need to, no matter how often
5. PRAY
6. Be patient with yourself
7. Reach out to a pastor, a teacher/counselor, or other resource. Don't go it alone.

"Thank you Bethany House. Without everything you've done for me and Maddison, I don't know where I'd be today. You have definitely changed me for the better and helped me understand that I'm a victor now, with my head held high."
Love,
Rachel



Sometimes life Just plain hurts



Beautiful baby Maddison went to join Jesus in her heavenly home, but not before touching many lives on this earth.

As an innocent little child I was taken into an unforgettable nightmare that would haunt me for many years to come. My so called "father" managed to abuse me mentally and sexually at the age of three. I dressed in many layers of clothing every day to keep this monster of a father away from me.

As more evidence came clear and the CPS reports came through, my parents finally got a divorce. My mother found herself single with two very young children to raise and nowhere to go. She had to work full time so she could put food on the table and shoes on our feet.

After what seemed like a life-time of waiting, my mom found a Christian man that would soon become our step father. They got married and our new family moved to Washington where we would be far from the abuse. In Seattle, I lived with my parents where I continued to thrive and finished High School with a 3.5 GPA.

However, I began to make unwise and unhealthy choices right after graduation. Soon, I found myself a boyfriend and moved in with him right away. Since that didn't work out, I was right back where I started, homeless and with no desire to live. I was pregnant, embarrassed, ashamed and most of all I was disappointed in myself because I knew better.

Knowing that I didn't have any resources for housing, I searched the net and eventually found a home in Gresham, for single young pregnant women called Bethany House.

The first couple weeks were very difficult for me. There were many tears shed and I felt so trapped. Even though I wanted to get back to Seattle as fast as I could, God had a very different plan in store for me. I finally started to blossom. I soon realized that I was going to be a victor

not a victim, anymore. Next, God guided me into a job that I totally loved and life continued to improve. But, one night I returned home and my legs were swollen like tree trunks. It was determined that I had the deadly preeclampsia and I was immediately rushed directly to the hospital. My precious daughter was brought into the world the next morning (February 23) by emergency C-section, at 26 weeks, weighing only 1 lb 9 oz, and just 12 inches long.

I'm sad to say, Maddison never made it home from the NICU. Precious little Mady went to be with the Lord on March 30th 2008. Mady touched so many people's lives and did miraculous things that only a little angel could have done and she changed her mother's life forever. As much as I miss her and my heart is broken, I am so thankful that Mady isn't suffering anymore. *Rachel*



A Little (a lot) of help from our Friends

We can't say enough about the help and support we've received from our friends in the community. You have been incredible. Again, thank you to everyone who responded to our emergency funding needs. Our program will remain open through at least October 2008, because of you. We are trusting that God will continue to provide for our mission.

Local business and other individuals have sponsored fundraiser and other events to support Bethany House as well. **Chico's** made it possible for women to come shop, shop, shop, knowing that part of their purchase would help Bethany House. **Kira Hunt @ Gresham Town Fair Chiropractic**, and the **Gresham Chamber** also went out of their way to support our life-saving program. Thank you! We even had Jeff "play" the ever-popular pay-it-forward game. We now have meat for days! You can see **Jeff**, from the **Oregon Web Team**, in the photo below. Also, remember that if you get your car serviced at **Gresham Ford**, mention Bethany House and they will donate 10% back to us. Time for that engine work, anyone? Lastly, if you're thinking of selling your home, call **Jennifer or Joseph Shook** at **Windermere Realty Group**. They will donate 10% of their commission back to us. Call: 503.888.3180 or 503.221.7380 / <http://shookgroup.mywindermere.com>.

ATTENTION INTERNET USERS! Would you like to be a better steward of your money? We certainly would. The newsletter you are reading costs 94 cents to print and mail. Please consider allowing us to email your future newsletters. This will allow us to put more money toward the women and babies in our care. To do this we will need your email address. Simply email us at bethanyhouse@runningblue.com with your request. Thank you for helping us save more.

Jeff from The Oregon Web Team



Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

Your ongoing support during this challenging year is more appreciated than you can imagine.

This has been one of the most difficult years for Bethany House. You might remember that Daniele had a miscarriage, and, sadly Rachel lost her precious baby girl. Thankfully, these young women were in a safe, loving place during these trying times.

We believe that 2008 is a year of closer relationships with our supporters. We want to share Bethany House with you in a more intimate setting. We would love to come to your home, church, group, or business and share about our life changing program. You can also schedule a tour and presentation on location at our home. We need you more than ever to keep this ministry not only thriving, but growing. Spreading the word is critical and we are asking for your help. Please help share the dream.

Thank you, Beth Rinehart





Baby Jozlyn Marie

Bethany House Needs List

- Newborn diapers
- Chevron Gas Cards
- Gift cards
- Household supplies
- Baby thermometers
- Postage stamps

Contact us for immediate needs at 503.667.8409

Don't Forget ...
You can now make secure online donations at the Bethany House website:
www.bethanyhousenet.org

Just a Reminder!

If your employer is a United Way Contributor, you can designate your donation to go directly to Bethany House. Just ask your United Way Representative for a Donor Option Card.

Visit our blog:
www.bethanyhousenet.org



Inspiring Speakers ...

Like music to your ears. Bethany House has inspirational speakers available to share at your functions. You can learn about the amazing, life-changing, life-saving ministry of Bethany House while being entertained and inspired. Topics can be arranged to specifically suit your event. Call to learn more!
503-667-8409

Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Adopt a Baby Bottle bank to fill up with money to benefit the women and infants at Bethany House. This is a great activity for the entire family or business. We'd be happy to provide a bottle bank for you.



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