

*Providing a loving home*

*Bethany*



*House*

*for single pregnant young women*



**THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT A SUNNY SUMMER DAY** that leads many of us to our broom closet and cleaning supplies, and also gives us the nudge we need to start shaking those musty, dusty rugs out. Now granted, we may be accustomed to cleaning our homes, offices, or vehicles alone, but when it comes to cleaning up our hearts and minds...we are better off enlisting the support, encouragement, and guidance of others. God never intended or expected us to "clean up" on our own. In

fact, for the pregnant women who come to Bethany House, they, too, have entered a new, fresh start-season.

Many of us grew up with the misconceived idea that we should not share our weaknesses with others. Some families spend a great deal of time making their homes dust free and sparkling clean, yet emotions are cluttered and shoved aside like a pile of dirty clothes kicked under a bed. Most of our residents have learned it is better to smile than cry when in pain, and to keep a secret rather than tell the truth. When they come to Bethany House, many are addicted to drugs, bad relationships, and their hearts are filled with shame, anger, and deep emotional pain. Thankfully, when they are ready to clean out the old and experience the cleansing grace of God, they have a safe place to begin the process.

Recently, Kandice joined our family. She is cleaning up and discarding the old addiction to heroin, a life of prostitution, and heartache. She describes her fresh start like this: "Before I came to Bethany House I was strung-out on heroin and prostituting

to get my money and live. I've used drugs since I was eleven years old and I'm now twenty-three. As long as I can remember, I used drugs. When I found out I was pregnant, I knew I had to do something different. Through a counselor at a treatment program, I learned about Bethany House, and moved in. Ever since, I've been clean and sober, off all drugs. I even stopped smoking! For the first time in my life I'm clean and have a new life. I have Bethany House to thank for that. Without their help and support, and believing in me, I probably wouldn't be here with a brand new fresh start for me and my baby. Thank you."

Embracing a fresh start in life is a process that involves people like you partnering with programs like Bethany House in love, and providing the time, talents, and treasure to ensure that women and their babies have better tomorrows. So let's continue showing you care about nurturing two hearts at a time by making changes in the lives of young girls, their babies and generations beyond.

**CLEANING UP OUR HEARTS**



**SUMMER 2006 EDITION**



# [ a FRESH START ]



*Just last week, one of our longtime residents, Heather, stepped out into the world beyond Bethany House with a brand new fresh start. She found affordable housing and ongoing support for both her and baby RylieAnne. Before moving into her new home, Heather shared the following:*

“When I first came to Bethany House, I was in treatment for 16 years of drug use, alcohol abuse, and addictive lifestyle choices. I'd been in treatment for about three months and was still a mess internally. I'd spent half my life running and hiding any way I could. I'd stopped living life in many ways. Treatment and going back to church put me on the path to Bethany House, but it wasn't until I came here and was surrounded by other Christians, who had walked a similar path, that I truly began to grow again.

Before I came here, I was constantly stressed out about housing, living in a domestic violence shelter, and not taking very good care of myself. Coming here gave me the ability to relax and really work on some of my deeper issues. My daughter, RylieAnne, was born April 6, 2006. She was healthy and strong. I'm thankful to Beth for taking a chance on an “older” girl - me being thirty-one. The program has helped me accept love again in a healthy way. I know at Bethany House I am loved, accepted, and valued. I haven't felt these things from my biological family in so long. I know that no matter where I go, I always have a home and family to come back to at Bethany House.”

Heather, way to go on a fresh new start for you and little RylieAnne!

**FUNDRAISING EXTRAVAGANZA** Bethany House's Spring Tea, Drama, and Silent Auction was attended by close to 200 women who were treated to a dramatic production by the Covenant Players, delicious deserts from Best Cellars Catering, as well as, numerous items for sale that tantalized the women to open their purses and spend. All for a good cause, of course! In fact, all but one item sold. Everyone loved the festive atmosphere. We plan to do this again. Thank you so much to all the individuals and businesses who donated items for our auction, and to the many women who sponsored tables, purchased tickets, and helped make our first ever Women's Tea a success. **If you missed out on this exciting event, mark your calendars now. Bethany House will host its annual Banquet and Auction on Sat., Nov. 18, 2006. We are looking for individuals and businesses to sponsor tables and help make this evening a success. More information coming soon.**



## HEATHER AND BRITTANY FIND NEW DIRECTION AND MAKE **HEALTHY CHOICES** FOR THEIR BABIES



*When Miss Brittany came on the scene here at Bethany House we had a few concerns. She tended to be...well, a little mean spirited, very opinionated, and self-focused. However, over the past six months, Brittany has blossomed into a perfect example of how Bethany House can help women and infants discover a totally new direction in life - a fresh start.*

“Growing up, I had a very rocky relationship with my family. Like many teenagers I had a problem with rebellion and not knowing where to place my anger. I was in and out of my mother's home until I buckled down and found my own place and supported myself. That lasted until I made a quick spiral down and started drinking and making poor choices, which affected my work performance. I lost a very good job. Things continued to get worse. My boyfriend's mom asked me to stay with them rent free for assistance around the house. Then the other bomb dropped. I got pregnant. His mom, who was extremely ill with cancer, asked me to leave if I wouldn't have an abortion. Thank God the local PRC directed me to Bethany House. I laughed and said, 'There's no way I'm living in some shelter.' Today, I am so grateful for Beth allowing me the privilege of living at Bethany House. I've learned so much. It has changed my life. Beth opening her arms to a hard-head like me was a prayer answered. Bethany House's staff has played a huge roll in my growth. They continue to teach me so much. I am now a stronger and smarter person. I used to think getting pregnant was the worst thing that could ever happen. It turns out that it has been by far the best. God blessed me with the most beautiful, well-behaved, and flawless baby, Jeffery. He is the best 'mistake' I've ever made. I would never take it back. I am head over heels, deeply in love with this 'new man' in my life. He's my own little angel in disguise. Thank you Bethany House for your love.”

**LOCAL SUPPORT FOR BETHANY HOUSE** Over the past months, Bethany House has been blessed with several grant allocations from local foundations and businesses. Boeing, who continues to support of our program, provided the funds for Bethany House to “re-do” the living room area, making it even more eye-appealing and comfy for our girls and guests. They also generously provided us with money to help with our increasing operating costs. The Collins Family Foundation provided funding toward our program, Milwaukie High School's Community 101 Grant, in partnership with PGE, was recently awarded to us and the Safeway Foundation gave Bethany House \$2,500 for ongoing operation costs and growing program needs. Safeway continues to support us locally by featuring our over-sized baby-bottle-banks at their Gresham location. We appreciate these organizations and the support they provide hurting women and their children. It is only with your financial support we can help our residents discover a fresh start this summer...or anytime of year. Thank you!

# DINE OUT FUNDRAISER

We are now participating in a fundraiser through August 2006 whereas the Main Street Ale House will donate 15% of your entire dining bill to: Bethany House. You are welcome to make copies of this coupon and give to friends or reuse every time you visit the Main Street Ale House.

## MAIN STREET ALE HOUSE

**Bring this coupon in with you on your next visit to Main Street Ale House present it to your attendant and we will donate 15% of the final bill for the meal to: BETHANY HOUSE**

Please, one coupon per bill. No limit on number of times a person can participate. One coupon may be combined with group bills.

**(503)-669-2569**  
**333 N. MAIN STREET,**  
**DOWNTOWN GRESHAM**

OFFER VALID THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2006



*Bethany House*

P.O. Box 3278  
Gresham, Oregon 97030

Address Service Requested

Bethany House Office 503-667-8409  
Monday -Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm  
visit us at [www.bethanyhousenet.org](http://www.bethanyhousenet.org)