

# BETHANY



# HOUSE

AUTUMN EDITION 2003

PROVIDING A LOVING HOME AND SERVICES FOR SINGLE PREGNANT YOUNG WOMEN



## BETHANY HOUSE ANNUAL PICNIC:

### *A Time of Reflection and Encouragement*

**O**ur Annual Picnic this year was held on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> in the backyard of Bethany House. With the promise of a hot sun and clear sky overhead, the staff prepared for the potluck barbeque. Soon, the board members, volunteers and young women began to arrive with goodies in hand. Fifteen young women with their children in tow came to enjoy the cool shade, frosty beverages and an old fashioned barbeque with us. As always, it was wonderful to see how much each young woman had changed in only a year and also to see how

big their children are getting! Our newest baby, Jadian Michael, who was born on July 10 arrived with his mom and dad all bundled up and oh so little!. Kim, another new mom, came with her very cute, baby girl, Sidney (born on March 14<sup>th</sup>). We also enjoyed seeing Dolce with her beautiful, smiling, baby daughter, Isabella (born on January 6<sup>th</sup>). Kim and Dolce had become friends while residing at Bethany House and have just rented an apartment together and are setting up house. It was good to see that each girl and her baby are doing so well. Many of

the young women expressed their gratitude again for the opportunities they received through our program, which in turn allows us to thank all of you who make the work of Bethany House possible. To see their accomplishments, the joy in their eyes, and to witness their beautiful children growing and prospering is such an encouragement to all of us. It is such a gift to see how these once broken young women have overcome adversity. We are aware that it is the hard work and generous gifts from people like you that has made a difference in their lives.



**Babies Soon to Arrive...**



**Director's Desk**

Find out about the 4th annual benefit banquet at the Sheraton Airport Hotel, Nov. 1, 2003...INSIDE



**Did You Know...**

just \$37.50 a month provides food, utilities, transportation, clothing and a home for one girl!



**Special Feature...**

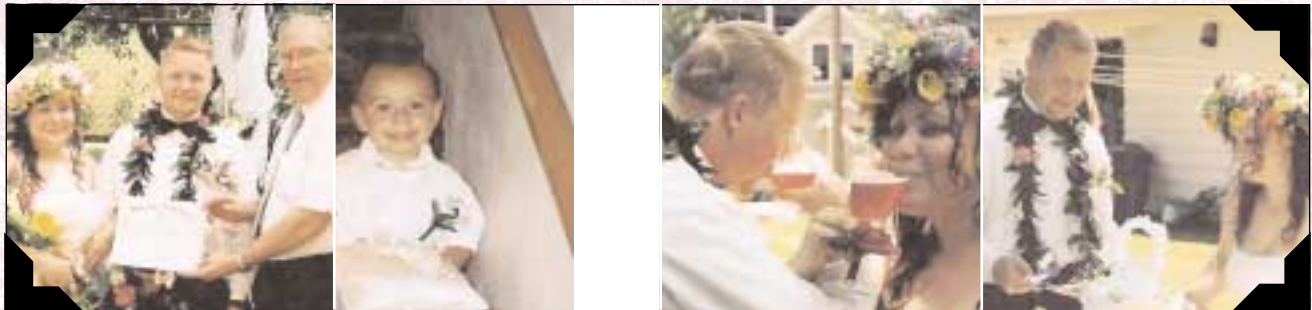
Former resident Jonalyn got married at Bethany House this summer. Read a message from her INSIDE.

# Jonalynn's Wedding Celebration

I came to Bethany House three years ago when I was 19. I was 4 months pregnant, had just gotten out of Job Corps and had nowhere to go. When I finally arrived at Bethany House everyone there welcomed me as if they already had known me: I was instantly loved and supported. The housemother, Becky, and the director, Beth, were caring and loving and I couldn't have asked for anyone better. I also made life-long friends with some of the most wonderful people I had ever met in my life. I continue to treasure those friendships. After moving out I had some



difficult times to go through before I met up with my son's father once again. As we began to date, we fell in love and decided to get married. I told Justin that I had a strong desire to have our wedding at Bethany House and he thought that was great. I wanted to combine one of the most important days in my life with one of the most important places in my life. I chose two girls from Bethany House: Nikki, a bridesmaid, and Courtney, my maid of honor. The other two bridesmaids were my sisters. So, on July 12, 2003, Justin and I were thrilled to be married in the backyard at Bethany House. We could not thank Bethany House enough for all that they have done for us. And for all of those who support Bethany House, thank you. Jonalynn



*Former Bethany House Residents*



*The Bride and Groom with Bethany House Staff: Carrie, Becky, Alice, Beth and*



# Jessica's Story



Our 4th annual benefit banquet at the Sheraton Airport Hotel is November 1, 2003. Due to popular demand, our MC this year is none other than Mary Starrett. Come and hear her remarkable story of pregnancy, adoption and reuniting with her daughter.

Mary Starrett is a Christian wife, mother and grandmother, with a new grandchild on the way. She has an enthusiastic following of readers and listeners who enjoy her weekly No Nonsense Commentary for Newswithviews.com as well as her radio and TV interviews with FOX and BBC. She has served over 20 years as a news anchor, morning talk show host and medical reporter. Mary is passionate about her work and the ministries and groups she supports. She is no stranger to adversity and knows what it feels like to be single, pregnant and scared. Mary is a strong role model for Bethany House girls, showing them that with hard work, diligence and faith you can overcome many challenges. To hear Mary's compelling story join us at our 2003 Bethany House Benefit Banquet. This will be an exciting and fun evening, so please give us a call and sponsor or host a table and bring your friends to an enjoyable evening on the town.

**So why do we need you?** Because you know how important it is to become involved in these girls' lives, so you can tell others and spread the word about the transforming life-saving mission of Bethany House. How can you do that? By simply being involved in our Benefit Banquet. Take time out of your busy schedule and have an evening of elegance and fun and become more informed about Bethany House and the vital work that we do and hear from some of our past and maybe even current residents.

**How can you be involved?** First you can sponsor and host your own table. Tables seat ten and each table costs \$300.00. As a table sponsor, you host your table by inviting your friends to join you at the dinner. We have a wonderful dinner and program planned for you and your guests. Of course you may sponsor additional tables and invite more friends. Your sponsorship will help us raise \$50,000 and if you choose you can sponsor a table for someone else to host. Either way you can attend the benefit banquet.

Our goal is to introduce new people to Bethany House and what we are doing in the community and the lives of these young pregnant women and their babies. Thank you again for considering this special gift. Please know that this is a great way to help those in our community who truly need our help. By sponsoring a table, or perhaps sponsoring a few tables, or contributing toward the banquet at any amount, you join with us in providing even greater care for these young women.

Whether you are hosting or sponsoring a table you will be making a difference in the lives of these young pregnant women and their babies. To reserve your table call 503-667-3259.



I would like to share my story with you. It all started when I moved out of my parent's home and into a house with a girl I thought was my friend. When this ended badly, going back to my parent's house was the last thing I wanted to do. My sister, Amy, and her family graciously made the hard decision to let me live with them in their little, two bedroom duplex. Soon after, I met the man who would become the father of my baby. It seemed to be going well for a while, then suddenly we broke up and a week later I found out I was pregnant. My sister and I wondered what I would do next, and then we heard about Bethany House. I had an interview with Beth and Becky, whom I thought were the nicest people. I read the rules and was soon accepted into the program. My son, Alex, was born on January 17, 2003, and weighed 6 lbs 12 1/2 oz. Now, I am working, going to church every week, and helping with the youth group. I am also helping a young girl that is struggling just as I was. I want to thank Becky, Beth, and Carrie Anne for lots of love and giving me hope for the future. Thanks, also, to all of you who made Bethany House a possibility for myself and others. Jessica



**GARAGE SALE UPDATE—**  
Thank you so much for all of you that donated to our garage sale. It was a great success and it raised over \$3,000.00 for the home. A special thanks to Mil and Alice Galer who have been the coordinators of the garage sale for four years and are now retiring and it is well deserved.

We are sorry to say that this will be our last Annual Garage Sale at Bethany House, but if you would like to have one and donate the proceeds to the home that would be a great blessing. Thank you again to everyone that contributed to this sale and for those who volunteered their time to make this the best sale we ever.

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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