

BETHANY



HOUSE

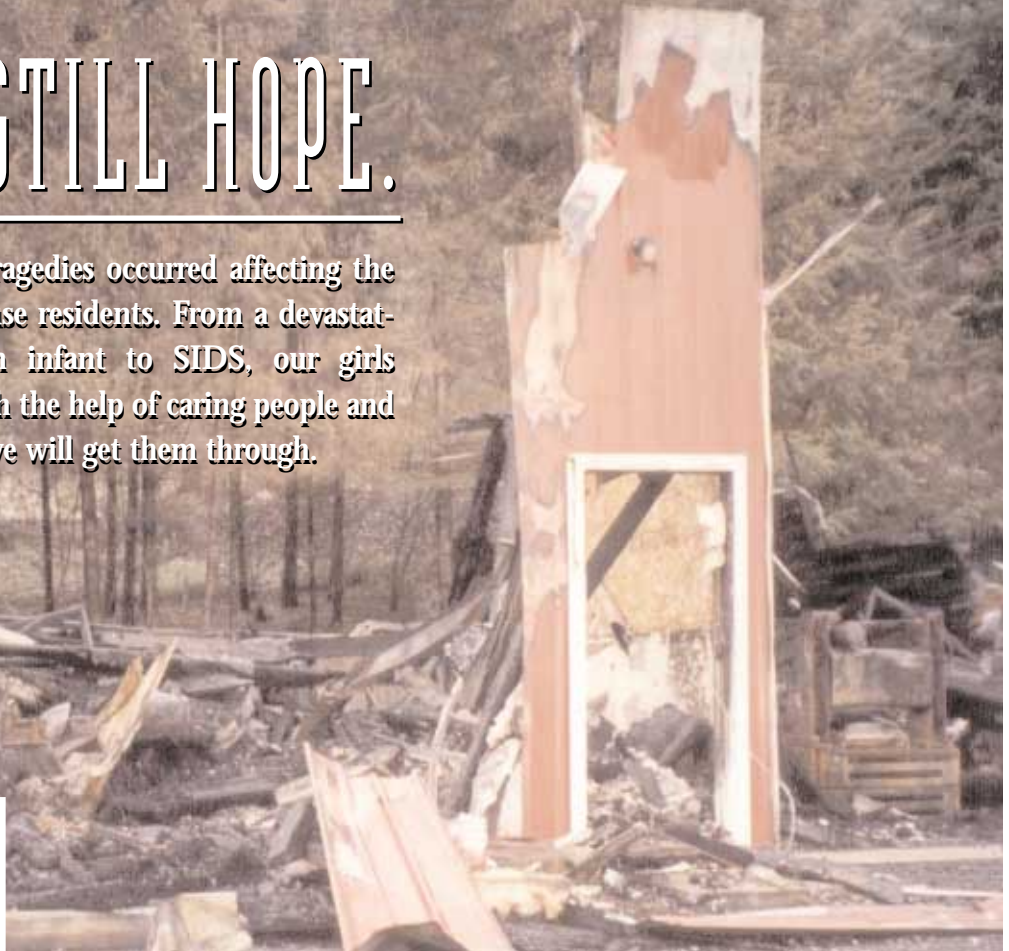


SPRING EDITION 2003

PROVIDING A LOVING HOME AND SERVICES FOR SINGLE PREGNANT YOUNG WOMEN

THERE IS STILL HOPE.

Over the holidays, several tragedies occurred affecting the lives of former Bethany house residents. From a devastating fire to the loss of an infant to SIDS, our girls are picking up the pieces with the help of caring people and the knowledge that God's love will get them through.



Things were just beginning to go great for me. I felt like I was finally getting my life on track. I had a job, my own car and my own apartment. Then, on December 21st things changed. I was eating dinner and doing laundry

at my Grandparents house just down the driveway from my home. An hour later, I drove up to the apartment to put my clothes in the dryer and saw the most terrifying sight.

There was smoke pouring out of every crack

Top: After fire burnt down the building, only a door opening remained. Left: Sarah & Makenna at the 2002 Annual picnic. STORY CONTINUES INSIDE.



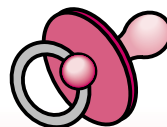
New Arrivals...

Alexander Ray was born January 17 2003, weighing 6 lbs 12 1/2 oz and 19 1/2 inches long.



Did You Know...

Division Street Safeway chose Bethany House as their community outreach for this year. Read more on the BACK.



Did You Know...

The Radio-Thon is coming up in April and May. Read all the details on the BACK COVER.



Special Feature...

Tara shares her testimony of her time spent at Bethany House. Read how her life was changed...INSIDE.

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT...

in the entire building. I jumped back in my car and drove as fast as I could down the driveway to my Grandparents house. I called 911, but it seemed like hours before the fire department arrived. By the time they got there, the flames had burst through the roof and within seconds, the whole building went up in flames. Because the fire was so hot, there wasn't much the fire department could do, so they just let it burn.

To just stand there and watch your home and everything you own go up in flames was the most painful feeling. My daughter and I lost everything we owned

except for the load of laundry I had washed. It would have been easy to go into a deep depression, and close everyone off, but I was able to put my faith in the Lord and I knew He would take care of us.

My daughter, Makenna, and I have been staying with my Grandparents until we can find a new place. The Red Cross gave us a voucher to buy some clothes, and numerous people have given us clothes, toys, money and a few household items. Although it was a devastating event, it has once again shown me just how many people care and are more than willing to help a complete stranger.

How you can help? Sarah is in need of some items to be replaced in order to set up

Makenna plays at home before it burnt down



another apartment for herself and Makenna. Call Bethany House at 667-3259 for a list of specific items Sara and Makenna are in need of.



As many of you know, I came to Bethany House 5 years ago, 4 months pregnant with no place to go. While I was at Bethany House, I discovered that I could have a future for my daughter and myself. I was able to complete my GED and learned what it was like to live in a family. My daughter, Ashley, was born on Dec. 14, 1998, and she is a happy, healthy, little girl, the light of my life.

After the tragedy of September 11th, a friend of mine helped me find a job in McMinnville, Oregon. I moved there shortly afterwards and found myself advancing towards another stage in my life.

I met Jamie and we were married on June 22, 2002. On November 5th, Jamie and I, along with Ashley celebrated the birth of our first child together. Joseph Jackson was born 8 weeks premature and needed to remain in the hospital 33 days after his birth. After he came home we were enjoying our new addition to the family. Ashley was enjoying being a big sister and Jamie and I were happy to have

HEARTACHE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

him in our life. But our joy was short-lived, for on December 24th, baby Joseph passed away in his sleep. We were heartbroken and devastated. The still unconfirmed diagnosis is SIDS (please see note below). Our families and the



community helped us stay strong through this tragedy and Bethany House was there once again to offer support as they always have in the past. We thank God everyday for the time we were given to spend with baby Joseph.

A member of the community has come forward with a matching grant to

help cover the cost of the funeral. The purchase of a headstone has left Jennifer and Jamie with a \$650 debt added to the already abundance of hospital bills. Would you be willing to come alongside Bethany House as well as the community to offer

your support by contributing to the funeral fund? If so, please mark your check in the lower left hand corner, Baby Joseph.

Please keep Jennifer and her family in prayers during this trying time. Thank you again for all that you have done for Jennifer and for the many other young women at Bethany House.

SIDS: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is the death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of clinical history.

Tara's Story



week and having an environment that was God-centered helped to soften my heart and enabled me take a good, long look at what I wanted to do with my life after my baby was born. I did not want to raise her in my condition of having a hard heart. My brother and I had had a lot of conflict and anger with each other and I had thought that I had lost my relationship with him. I felt so ashamed that I found it difficult to forgive myself. Then one weekend when I went home, my brother, Michael, asked me to come back and live at home. He felt that it was not right for me to be away from home when I needed family the most. So I moved home. When I did, my family began to see some changes in me: I took initiative to help with the house chores and I was more open to communication and compromise. Also, I began to show that I really did appreciate home and family.



I moved into Bethany House last December. Before I moved in I was living away from my parents' home because there was a lot of stress and mixed emotions about my being pregnant, even to the point of my brother and I getting into fist fights. I met with Beth and when she gave me the rules of the house, I read them and knew right then that I might have a little trouble with the rules, being such an independent person. I had just come back from living on my own in California, had my own car, and usually came and went as I pleased. I was not sure how I would do in such a structured environment.

After a few of weeks I realized that structure was exactly what I needed. My family and I had started talking and getting along better and I had a whole new out-look. I had benefited from the daily devotionals and weekly Bible studies. It also helped that I was living close to my church now. (When I lived up on Mt. Hood I didn't want to get up and drive an hour to Gresham). Going to church every

I had my daughter, Abigail, on June 14, 2002, and in just 5 weeks I started working. I am currently a full-time student at Mt. Hood Community College studying to be a Medical Office Coder. I am still living with my parents. My sister's mother-in-law and my mom help watch my daughter when I am in school and on weekends so I can get homework done. I plan to be moving into my own house in the summer of 2003 and hope to continue my education to become a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse.

Bethany House gave me the time and support to sort out issues at home and with myself. I will be forever grateful for Bethany House and its supporters and the staff that give their lives to each young woman that walks through the doors. There is hope!

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



On July 12, 2003, Jonalyn, a past resident of Bethany House and Justin, the father of her child, have decided to become united together in marriage and become a real family. They will be married in the backyard of Bethany House with a reception following. If you would like to give a gift to the couple please contact Bethany House at 503-667-3259. We will have more information about this event in our next quarterly newsletter.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to: Jessica who gave birth to Baby Alexander Ray, January 17th 2003, weighing 6 lbs 12 1/2 oz and 19 1/2 inches long.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO BETHANY HOUSE

The Division Street Safeway has selected Bethany House for their community outreach in the year 2003. You will see informational baby bottle piggy banks at each check stand. Please help make this a successful fundraiser by putting your extra change in the banks so we can continue to provide a loving home for single expectant young women.

BETHANY HOUSE RADIO-THON AND KPDQ

Bethany House's 2003 Mothers Day campaign is right around the corner! In May of this year Bethany House will be holding a Radio-Thon in partnership with KPDQ, a local Christian Radio Station. This Radio-Thon is in conjunction with our 2003 Mothers Day Campaign and we are looking forward to its' great success.

Last year Bethany House's Radio-Thon raised over \$10,000 to help support the young women at Bethany House, and this year we hope to double that amount. We will once again be holding the pledge-a-thon, so please **mark your calendars, for the last week in April and the first two weeks in May**, and listen to KPDQ 93.7 FM and True Talk 800 AM for your chance to call in your support to Bethany House.

DID YOU KNOW...

Jan Weston, of Weston Pontiac / Kia, has come alongside Bethany House offering a \$1,000 matching grant for this campaign, and is asking other business's to also lend their support. A business can either also offer a matching grant, make a donation or can match Jan's offer dollar for dollar, thus bringing \$2,000 towards these young women. The more funds raised the more we can help these single, unsupported, at-risk young pregnant women.

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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