

Providing a loving home

Bethany



House

for single pregnant young women

HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS?

We live in a world that is hungry for success. Now granted, success is not a bad thing. In fact, most of us desire success in our lives. However, measuring success in concrete terms, when it comes to people and their personal progress, isn't quite as easily defined. It's not as if we can just take out our handy, measuring rod and determine the exact amount of growth that has taken place in a woman's emotional, spiritual, and physical life. In fact, the compelling thing about success is it looks different for different people. We all have unique "faces," and just as an individual has his/her own exclusive physical attributes, they also have very diverse levels of success.

So often, we expect success to measure out in tangible, measurable ways. Statistics are certainly great indicators of success. For example, Bethany House has helped over 90% of our residents obtain a GED or high school diploma. Fantastic! But what about another woman, who didn't know how to care for her body, and is now, eating healthy meals? That, too, is success. Or, one young woman, who we later discovered had severe mental health issues, was nurtured at Bethany House while the transfer of her baby into a safer parenting situation was orchestrated. In this particular case, a



baby's safety was ensured. Success, again! Another woman, early in her pregnancy worked and went to school. Her prior job experiences had not been positive, so for her to leave this job with a good reference was a major success.

Another misconception is that all the success is, or should be immediate. Bethany House is in the seed planting business. Ultimately, the women we help must continue to tend their garden, allowing God to pour His life sustaining water over it. One former Bethany House resident, Michele, who completed her stay at Bethany House close to ten years ago, married, however, she ran into marital troubles, and continued to seek council from Beth Rhinehart, our Director. Recently, she wrote to share the following success story, "My life has done a major turnaround since last time we talked. I put my life and marriage in God's hands. I let him work on my husband. I have to tell

you, listening to God was the hardest thing I've ever done. But, I did what he instructed. Things are so much better. In fact, we are going to the married couples retreat next weekend. We are also attending marriage counseling at our church. I was baptized on January 29, 2006. My girls are getting so big, and have accepted Christ as well! I can't believe what a long walk it's been. The blessings that have come into my life over the past ten years have been wonderful. However, the blessings in the last six months have been miracles I can only dream of. I love you (Beth) and Jack (her husband) so much! Thank you for the time you took to help get that wayward child of my past (me) on the track to God."

As you can see, attempting to pin down "what is success" for a program like ours is elusive, if not impossible. There is no way to put a measurement on deep heart changes. Eventually, over time, our residents return to report the successes they have experienced. The one element that remains the same in every update is that Bethany House made a difference, for the better, and we were able to positively touch not only one life, but as our motto so proudly proclaims, two lives at a time...and beyond.

One Face of Success

Nicole's Story:



As we were exploring the idea of success wearing different “faces,” we received a call from former resident Nicole. Now at first glance, Nicole might be a Bethany House girl that was not as successful as some. However, her unique circumstances and her own personal growth are something to cheer about.

Young Nicole grew up never knowing her father. She lived with her mom and grandparents until she was eight years old. At that time, her mother married an Air Force guy (that's her description!) Her family began to move all over the country, leaving Nicole feeling out of place and uprooted, never able to settle down in one place. She also explained even though her new dad adopted her and provided love and support, she always felt abandoned and rejected by her real father. Thus, began her quest for seeking love, a father's love, in all the wrong places, primarily destructive relationships.

After a horrible fight with her grandparents, Nicole moved to Portland, Oregon, where she met a man on the internet. Her internet romances and compulsive relationships continued to worsen. She moved in with this man and again got pregnant, eventually there was a drug bust that brought child protective services into her life. She had a hard pregnancy, having to administer shots to keep

from contracting deadly blood clots. After much pleading from her family she came to Bethany House, where she stayed for only six weeks.

Looking back today, Nicole realizes just how “good she had it” at Bethany House, where she was pursuing her GED, and learning life skills. Unfortunately, for Nicole, she wanted to do things her way, and left against our advice, knowing she could lose her baby to the state. Armed with the dose of hope she had received at Bethany House, she fought for her baby, and today is the mother of Kayden, now three months old. Nicole shared, “Leaving Bethany House was a mistake. The grass is not always greener on the other side. But, I did learn a great deal in a very short time. Today, I'm in parenting classes. I'm getting my GED and starting job training. Bethany House and this birth have helped me grow up. I've learned God loves me and he has given me so much grace even though I made so many poor choices and mistakes. Bethany House was my beginning, now I'm walking out a better ending.” Indeed, this is a budding success story. We'll definitely stay tuned!

SPRING FUNDRAISING TEA

Bethany House invites you to celebrate and support abundant life at this spring's fundraising event, Tears to Triumph. Our tea, silent auction, and dramatic production, which features the excitement and impact of international repertory company, the

Covenant Players, will support the at-risk, pregnant women and infants who reside at

Bethany House. The Covenant Players challenge their audiences to take a closer look at themselves and the practice of their Christian faith. Tea, coffee, desert, (fruit, too!) will be served as the audience is treated to a silent auction, with items sure to entice even the most “hardened” shopper. An initial, humorous skit will prelude Bethany House's brief video presentation, and the featured drama, *The Upward Way*. Tickets are on sale now for \$15.00 a piece or \$100 for a table that seats ten (only \$10.00 per person). We are seeking women's groups to host and decorate tables using their own creative flare. A special grand prize will be awarded to the “grandest” and most decorative table. Contact Carol Van Atta or Beth Rhinehart, for more information. Phone: (503) 667-8409 Email: bethanyhouse@qcsn.com Website: www.bethanyhousenet.org.



Success Continues

Rebecca's Story:



"I came to Bethany House when I was almost three months pregnant. I had nowhere to go, and I was really scared of being homeless, or having a miscarriage. My family had turned away from me and I had no father, and my mother had passed away. I was at the hospital one night and I just couldn't take the fear anymore. Thankfully, the hospital referred me to Bethany House. I was so scared the house would be a shelter-warehouse, with rows of hard beds. When I came for my interview, I was shocked. Bethany House is so fancy and nice. I could eat when I needed to, and I had my very own bedroom. It was like a family to me. Beth has been more of a mom to me than anyone in my life. It's amazing someone would be so nice to me, and do more for me than my 'blood' family.

I learned a lot about God. He really can help if you talk to him and he makes things better. I stopped being so depressed and I began to get on my feet. I got a job, found a church to go to, and met new friends. I learned not to spend so much time criticizing others, instead I learned to focus on my own issues and problems. I developed a get up and go attitude. I started to want things way too fast, though, and shortly after getting my job, I

decided it was time to move out. I did. Big mistake! Bethany House came to help me even after I moved. They provided all my furniture, and took me on errands. Carol took me to the hospital when I was in trouble and Beth continued to advise me. I ended up losing my apartment, and I realized I needed more help. Bethany House helped me get into a new, long-term housing program. Today, my son, Gabriel, is six weeks old and he is so big and cute. I am back in high school and continuing to grow and change. Beth and Carol came to visit me at my new program. I am amazed they care so much. I just want to say thank you to Bethany House for being the family I never had and helping me to get settled in another great program, where I can continue my journey."

Partnering with other agencies to ensure client success is something Bethany House desires to do. We are continuing to form relationships with other programs that can help women be all they can be with God's love.

ALERT!

We need your help! Bethany House is being bombarded with water in the basement walls and floor in one of the mother baby rooms downstairs. This problem, if not repaired, will cause mold and mildew to develop. To repair this problem we need a drainage system outside the house to control the water. At this time, we forced to take action in order to correct this growing problem. The cost of these renovations will run close to \$5,000.00 Sadly, this is not something we have planned for, nor are we prepared to finance this project at this time. If you would like to help keep the flood waters from flowing, contact Beth today, or send a donation specifically for the new Water Repair Fund. Together, we can keep things safe, dry, and secure. Thank you.

BABY BOTTLE CHALLENGE

Teaching our children about giving and helping others is a huge responsibility in this age of me, myself, and I. We have a great solution! Recently, we have started a new, family focused, baby-bottle-challenge. What you need: At least one regular sized baby bottle, a giving heart, and pocket change.

After your family fills this one-of-a-kind piggy bank, come by Bethany House and drop it off, with the knowledge your baby bottle contents will play an important part in blessing pregnant women and their infants. Why not set up a fun competition, where your kids create their own mini baby bottle fundraiser, inviting others to join in and help support life. See there really is a good use for those baby bottles hidden away in some back cupboard. If you don't have a bottle, don't worry, we are happy to provide you with one. Just give us a call. Really, pennies do add up!

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.



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

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.

OFFER VALID THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2006



Bethany House

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