



from bethany house

2017 a Season of Memories

In 1986 a vision gave birth to a dream—a dream in the mind of Beth Rhinehart to help pregnant women find shelter from life’s storms while embracing their own significance and becoming strong women and mothers who contended for their children. Some scoffed at her dream, but thankfully others caught the vision and came alongside her to start what would eventually become known as Bethany House—a program for pregnant women and children—women who had nowhere to turn and were facing insurmountable odds to their success...for some, their actual survival.



Melinda (above) the first resident of the big blue house on Roberts. House is pictured below.

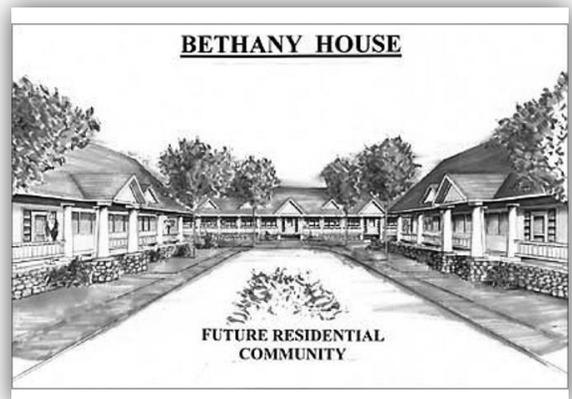
The need was great, forcing Beth and those early supporters to think creatively. How could they help these women right now? They determined a sponsor family format, where women lived with families would be a solid starting point. This structure allowed many young, pregnant women who had no idea what a ‘healthy’ family looked like to be surrounded by love, which allowed them to learn by example while Beth and her capable team connected them with the required resources: well-baby care, counseling, education, financial support, healthy food, and so much more as they made the transition to motherhood and ultimately independence.

Beth and friends poured their hearts and souls into fundraising and gaining community support, and opened the doors of the “big blue house” on Roberts, in Gresham, in 1990, welcoming up to five women at a time into the ‘house phase’ of the program. Here, the program expanded and flourished, helping change the lives of hundreds of women and children over its extended run. But as time passed the needs changed; more women with multiple children were looking for help and housing. Bethany house ‘the house’ was no longer enough to meet these changing needs, which led to the sale of the property in 2010 after much deliberation and dreams for a new direction and future for the program.



The sponsor-family-format was readapted and restructured to serve the women and children as plans for the future, apartment-based program was in conception. Beth and Bethany House have continued to help hundreds of needy women and children during the past seven years.

Now a new season is upon us. The current housing crisis in our area demands new direction and action. The Bethany House residential community, pictured to the right, must move from conception to birth. **2018 is the year for change, for making new memories, and helping more women and children find healing and hope. We urge you to join this exciting new step in our journey. Our Facebook page will provide ongoing details as we once again transition to better touch two lives at a time and generations beyond with God’s love.**



3 Ways you can help Bethany House make more memories now!



So very THANKFUL

Jo-Jo, a past resident of the “big blue house” was the first woman also to utilize a sponsor family. She lived with Les and Cathy, after giving birth to Summer (pictured to left and below). Summer has recently graduated from college with a degree in Family Studies & Human Development/Education. She continues to spread God’s love through her life, recently traveling to Africa on a mission trip.

Bethany House, allowed Mom, Jo-Jo to thrive and embrace life, and now, decades later that first baby in our first sponsor family is impacting the world, truly being His hands extended.

Recently, Les, Summer’s sponsor family ‘father’ had Summer on his mind, sharing this: I was just thinking of Summer this morning, when I ran across this music video. It reminds me of all the mothers that made the hard choice; all the children that have brought us so much pride & joy; all the amazing supporters of Bethany House, all those who worked to make it happen and our own Beth who carried the dream into History. This dream has been duplicated in many places, but here, we have seen over 800 new lives brought into this world. This song is for you and for all the pride & joy our Summer brings – thanks Beth Rhinehart! Please, take a moment to watch the video John Elfante’s song, *This Time*, on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/Bethany-House-201883746521268/?ref=br_rs



The Bethany House Program is mobile too! Sometimes women may have a place to live with their children, but they are close to losing their safety net. Other times, they need guidance and support. Beth is frequently as you might say “in the field,” providing support services and mentoring right there, at woman’s point of need. This flexibility has proved invaluable to women like Niana, who has the following to say about her experience:

When I first began the mentoring program I was excited to have a woman that I could glean from and have one on one conversation with again. I was new to the Gresham community, and I hadn't established a support system or relationships of trust. I literally knew no one here. I saw the Bethany House program as an opportunity for me to seek wise counsel, but also as a way to make a friend. I felt so far away from my previous support system, and although I could reach out by phone or email I really needed some quality time and face to face support. I can't get a hug through the phone. Starting over is hard, but it's even more difficult to do when you feel alone in an unfamiliar place. I felt like Ruth, devastated in a foreign land and in desperate need of a Naomi— woman that I could cleave to. I found that with Bethany House and Beth.

Beth has become one of my favorite people, friends, and a mentor. I am so thankful for the love and care she has shown my family.

Don't forget that every time you purchase something from **Amazon Smile** and choose Bethany House your other favorite charities receive a portion of the price tag. You will want to make sure you are connected to the Amazon's Smile Web Page, and from there you can select the charity of your choice and shop. www.amazonsmile.com



Miracles Happen All Year, but Christmas is time to Celebrate!

This Christmas Letter has focused on Memories...history—the transitions of the Bethany House Program, the stories of past women whose children are now impacting the world for God, and we’ve highlighted the many ways Bethany House has stayed ‘in touch’ with the heartbeat of hurting women and children for nearly three decades. 2017 has been extremely busy as we continue to support and serve pregnant women and women with children in a variety of practical ways, during the housing crisis that continues to affect our area. And with our transformation moving forward, our vital services will continue to incur expenses in order to meet the needs in our community. We’re hoping you believe that what we have done, do, and what we have planned going forward has eternal value. If so, we ask specifically for your financial support. Partner with us as we continue to adapt, adjust, and assist those less fortunate.

Maria, pictured above and with her family, will gladly tell you the miraculous ways Bethany House helped her in the past and continues to support her even now as a happily married mother with a brand new baby.

I always think about how much you (Bethany House) helped me get through a very tough time in my life (a pivotal point of positive change) and how nice you (Beth) were to me, even though you didn't know me. Thank you for being such a wonderful person! I don't think there's a day that goes by that you don't cross my mind. I even found the Bethany House newsletter I was in. It made me cry, couldn't help it. I got married last year to an amazing gentleman and we recently had a son, Corric. His birthday is the same day as yours! What a perfect coincidence, I thought. I feel it's the best day he could have been born, as does my husband, Jeff. A new chapter in my life full of happiness (which reminds me of when you came into my life). I am working on my Bachelor of Health Science right now from Pacific University in Hillsboro. Thankfully, it's an online program that works well for my family and new baby boy. I hope I get into the PA Program at Pacific, if so, we will move to Vancouver! Ziya couldn't be happier in life. She loves her new sibling, is very smart and excels in school. She is currently learning to ride horses! **We at Bethany House are thrilled to be a part of this family's life and future. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!**

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Bethany House donation & pledge form

Name _____ Address _____
City, State, _____ Zipcode _____
Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Pledge information

___ \$200.00 a month ___ \$100.00 a month ___ \$75.00 a month ___ \$40.00 a month ___ \$15.00 a month

\$ _____ each month for the women at Bethany House and infants.
\$ _____ a one time gift for the women at Bethany House and infants.

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of:
___ Cash ___ Check ___ Credit Card ___ other:
Discover ___ American Express ___ MasterCard ___ Visa ___
Credit card number _____
Expiration Date _____
Authorized signature _____



Make checks payable to Bethany House