

# BETHANY'S BLESSINGS

## What Does Love Look Like?

The residents we house at Bethany Place come from horrible situations and backgrounds. This year the stories behind the faces seem to be increasingly worse stories than ones we've heard before. We had a woman come to us strung out on heroin, seeking help. Another woman came to us after quite recently being choked by her abuser and left in the street to die, while pregnant. One woman was a long time cutter, and another one hiding from gang members. These are the kind of women who so desperately need to be at Bethany Place - in a loving environment. A long time tradition at our ministry on Valentine's Day includes the women receiving a single rose with a card from their Husband Jesus, while the children each receive a stuffed animal with a card from their Father Jesus. Valentine's Day is not only a day for couples to feel loved, but also for single women and mothers to feel loved. We want all of our women to know that love doesn't have to come in the form of an abusive relationship. True love can be experienced with Jesus and with family.

In an effort to make our women and children feel extra loved, we organized a secret "Galentine's" Party - for the first time - in which the women were pampered. There was gifts, lots of food and a photo booth. The children even had their own "big girl" table of specialties. Thank you to the people who donated makeup, candy, brownies, flowers, party bags filled with goodies, books for our book giveaway and toiletries to the ministry for Valentine's Day - making this the most special Valentine's Day Bethany Place has ever had. We have decided to make this an annual event, so please think of us next year around Valentine's Day if you are interested in making next year's party even more special than this year's and leaving our women and children feeling overwhelmed with love. We would also like to thank the people who stopped by with a special gift for the children before they went to school on Valentine's Day and came to give the women and children a catered meal the day after Valentine's Day.



## WHAT IS BETHANY PLACE?

Bethany Place is a nonprofit ministry that strives to lead women and children to live a blessed life with Jesus Christ. This safe haven has touched the community for over 30 years. As a 2-year program, Bethany Places focuses on teaching women who they are in Jesus, how to be good mothers and help them become the person God has created them to be.

Executive Director and Founder of Bethany Place, Sandy Reed, along with the Assistant Director, Nivia and now granddaughter, Shayla, manage all aspects of the ministry on their own. The workload for three people is of course possible with God, but it could be made easier with help from the community. Their need for diligent volunteers is very great.

## The Community Gives Back

So far this year, we have been blessed by the amount of help we have received from members in the community. We have a listing on [justserve.org](http://justserve.org) and in response to that listing, a group of 50-150 people will be coming to the ministry in April to assist us with up to 10 projects we need completed. We have also received help from other individuals within the community, all of whom we are grateful for.



On March 16, our parking lot was completely full of volunteers doing various outdoor projects. The **Young Men's Service League (Milton Chapter)** came out and poured a concrete sidewalk around the perimeter of our playground - something we have wanted for a while now. They completed other landscaping projects, such as mowing, planting bushes on our hill, placing mulch in our flower beds and repainting our cross and entry gate.

## Grateful for People Like You



Also on March 16, some members of the Reinhardt Women's soccer team came to volunteer their time, as they removed the grass from an area we are planning to have fully replaced with mulch in April.

If you know or have a group of people that would be willing to donate their time to help us shrink our project and repairs list, do not hesitate to contact us. We are always in need of dedicated, hardworking people to help us.





"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law."  
~ Romans 13:8

At our fundraising dinner in November, Sheriff Frank Reynolds vowed to be a part of our ministry as much as he could. He has upheld this promise and considers us when he can. He recently delegated that a sum of money raised at a 5K held by Parks and Recreation be given to us. Thank you Sheriff Reynolds for thinking of us and reminding us that we are not forgotten.

## Our Voice in the Community

We have had the opportunity to connect with people in the community through various speaking engagements. Speaking to the community gives us the chance to raise awareness of our ministry and our needs. It also gives us the chance to inform people about our Christian Bookstore and Thrift Store that directly benefits the women and children at the ministry. People tell us all the time, they didn't know our ministry was here or what it was. We are thankful for the opportunities we have had so far this year and would enjoy speaking at more events in the future. If you would like us to come speak about our ministry and program, let us know and we would be happy to make arrangements.

## In 2018, Statistics showed ...

85% of domestic violence victims are female. 28% of families were homeless due to domestic violence. 75 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. 19.5 million women 18 or older have used illicit drugs in the past year. 120 deaths a day in the U.S. are due to overdoses. 81% of households in America are single mothers. 16.4 million children under 18 are being raised without a father. 30.3% of single mothers were food insecure.

These numbers are real, but they aren't just numbers. These numbers represent real people and real lives - people and lives we are trying to reach. We can't change the world but we are trying to make a difference in the part of the world we are in. Please partner with us in lowering these numbers.

## Take a closer look.

**Most of the residents that enter Bethany Place are escaping abuse & addictions and do not have a support system. Being a two year program where we take care of all the needs of the women and their children for their entire stay, there is a small entrance fee and a monthly fee. In the 30 years that Bethany Place has been open, it has never turned a woman away due to lack of finances. Therefore, we are constantly seeking sponsorship for our residents.**

**\$850: one woman-one month**

**\$1,700: two women-one month**

**\$18,000: one month's expense at Bethany Place**

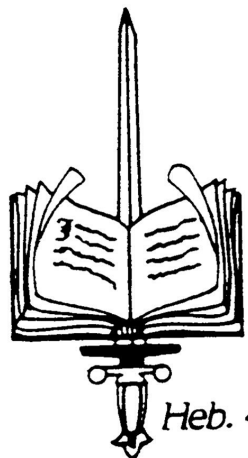
**\$10,200: one woman-one program year at Bethany Place**

**Having this view, how can you help?**

## Join us for Church!

SUNDAY MORNING AT 11:00 AM

THURSDAY NIGHT AT 6:30 PM



*Heb. 4:12*

## HOW TO GET CONNECTED

Contact Us!

Call: 770.479.9462

Fax: 770.704.0040

Follow us on Facebook:

@merismosministries  
@BethanyBoutiqueChristian

Follow us on Instagram:

@bpboutique1

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Schedule a Visit!

Shop at our Boutique!

[www.bethanyplacehome.org](http://www.bethanyplacehome.org)  
[www.bethanyboutique.org](http://www.bethanyboutique.org)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I have experienced a gamut of emotions since Feb. 26, 2016, since my husband, Michael, went home to be with Jesus. He and I founded Bethany Place in 1989 and his loss left me heartbroken but I decided quickly to not move on, but to carry on. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior in 1976, but I can tell you that I have never felt His love and His presence stronger than in the last three years. He is the only one that can heal a widow's heart and because of my relationship with Him, serving is natural. He has given me a passion for "widows and orphans" that is OVERWHELMING!! Thank you Jesus.