

# heartbeat

MERCY HOUSE NEWSLETTER • FALL 2006



Dear Friends,

A number of years ago, during a particularly challenging time I was encouraged by the Lord to just be thankful...for everything I could. I was struck by the simplicity of His instruction and taking it to heart, determined that I would thank Him for everything, even the simplest blessings. As I walked out my front door, I thanked Him for the huge Indian Hawthorn bush that brought me such joy every spring with masses of pink blooms. I thanked Him for the dependable car I drove. I thanked Him for the wonderful neighbor of 10 years who always lived in peace with me. I thanked Him for everything I could think of. I even thanked Him for the hot water that came out of the faucets when I turned it on that night. That may seem silly and yet by the end of the day, I was in a state of sheer joy. Choosing gratitude had turned my attitude around and I was seeing my world from a more heavenly point of view.

So in this season of thanks and as we near the end of this year I would like to say thank you to the Lord for some things:

✳ *Thank you, Lord, for our precious salvation that came at such a dear cost. Without that, there would be nothing else to thank You for.*



- ✳ *Thank you, Lord, for freedom. Freedom in my environment but also for the freedom that is inside. I am free to do what I wish and free to not do what I shouldn't.*
- ✳ *Thank you, Lord, for my family, both biological and spiritual. Hasn't God enriched our lives with others and the people we love the most?*
- ✳ *Thank you, Lord, for my church. I love my church family and serving God together with them.*
- ✳ *Thank you, Lord, for Mercy House. What a joy to see lives transformed one at a time and babies saved one at a time. I wouldn't trade that for anything.*
- ✳ *Thank you, Lord, for our partners and supporters who make this ministry happen. We truly could not do this without them.*

These are just a few of the things I am thankful for. How many things can you think of to be thankful for? I know if we began to

*In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. -1 Thessalonians 5:18*

make a list, it would be truly endless, because every day brings new blessings and new life from our

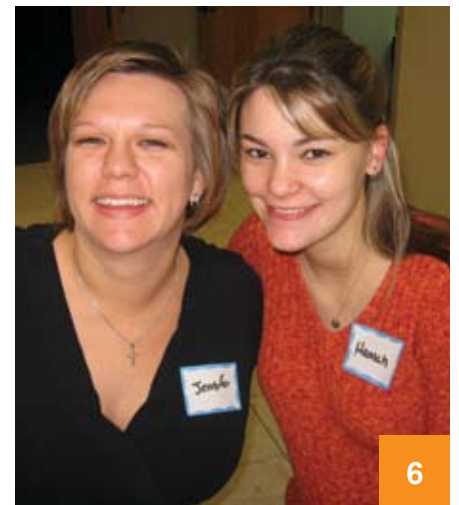
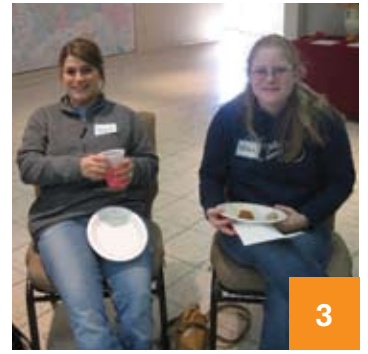
faithful God.

As we approach these holidays and the finishing of another year, may we count our many blessings, count them one by one. Count our many blessings, see what God has done!!

Thank you again for your support, love, encouragement and giving. Have a wonderful holiday season and may you remember to praise our amazing and bountiful Father.

In His Mercy,  
Susan





# from jennifer's desk

November 14, 2006

Greetings to all of our wonderful friends and supporters and what generous servants you are! Last quarter we poured out our hearts to you regarding the need for Shepherding Homes and we received an outpouring of your faithfulness and generosity in response. Because of your prayer and support, I am happy to report that we now have two active Shepherding Homes and several others in the process of being interviewed and accepted into the program.

I am so excited for the opportunity to serve the Shepherding Families that have partnered with us. What a blessing they are to this ministry and our clients. I would like to

say thank you to both the Vina and Barnett families for allowing me to come into their home and work alongside them for the betterment of

each client. The faithfulness and generosity of these two families has blessed my heart beyond words. I believe this is how Jesus intends for us to minister, each of us partnering together with our strengths and gifts to bring healing, and restoration to those in need. So thank you

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*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.*  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

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from the bottom of my heart.

Finally, I am very excited to be working directly with our newest client. Hannah is such

a joy and I look forward to getting to know her more in the weeks to come. As you commit time to pray for Mercy House in the coming months, please pray for me and my work

with each client. My Social Work training is essential for the work that I do but I also need the anointing and direction of the Lord so that His will be done in each situation.

Honored to serve with you,  
Jennifer L Brown, Family Worker

**Special thanks go to Liz Whale and friends for the bountiful shower given for Mercy House on November 11th. We are so blessed!**

- 1) Our newest resident Hannah, and her housemom, Cathy
- 2) Our Hostess, Liz and friend Jana
- 3) Hollie and Stefani
- 4) Food and fellowship

- 5) The entire gang!
- 6) Jennifer and Hannah
- 7) Katie and Sharon enjoy a Kodak moment!
- 8) Cathy, Jennifer, Susan, and Hannah