

Genesis House Timeline

Aug 1977. A small group of volunteers rented an apartment to shelter three pregnant women.

Nov 1977. Genesis House, Inc. founded. Moved into our first house.



Mar 1984. Genesis House II opened for student mothers and their children.



Sep 1989. Genesis House III opened as a shelter home for pregnant women.



2005. Beginning 7 years (and counting) of Emergency Shelter Grants awarded by State of Florida, Department of Children and Families. The grants have helped fund upgrades to the 3 houses, including repainting, new windows, and new A/C & heat systems.

Apr 2005. First Annual Genesis House Golf Tournament.



Sponsors & teams are needed for next year's **Golf Tournament, Apr 21.**

The annual golf tournaments are a major fund-raiser for Genesis House.

Nov 2012. 35th Anniversary of Genesis House, Inc.



AS I REFLECT on my 35 years starting and volunteering with Genesis House, Inc., I am amazed at how God has led us into sheltering so many women and children (over 13,000). When the idea of providing

shelter to homeless pregnant women came to us in 1977, I did not think about the long-term effects we would have on so many lives, and I had no idea I would still be so involved 35 years later. I also had no idea we would have three shelter homes and have housing for student mothers with their children and a home for homeless mothers and their children. I wrote out this quote to myself in 1977 and found it again recently in one of my old notebooks:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going, I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.... — Thomas Merton

In 1977, the bank loan officers I approached, and a number of friends, all told me it was an impossible goal to buy a house to shelter homeless women with only the belief that people would send donations. They said we would never be able to find the support and donations we would need to do it. In spite of their discouraging words we moved forward with our plan by renting our first house for one year and then being approved by a sympathetic banker who gave us a balloon mortgage. During the first 17 years we were able to completely staff and do all our administration work with no paid staff, only volunteers.



Many churches, organizations, and individuals sent us donations, large and small, making it possible to pay our expenses and pay off all three mortgages. I am very proud of and grateful to our supporters for all their help making our 35 years of Genesis House possible.

With God, all things are possible. — Luke 18:27

I am in awe of all the volunteers in our community, from 1977 through present day, who have stepped forward to help support and improve our three beautiful shelter homes. I wish everyone reading this could see the love radiated by the groups and individuals who volunteer their time helping our residents and improving our three shelter homes. The volunteers have come from church groups of all ages and from all faiths, civic groups, corporations, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, public and private schools, and caring individuals. We also receive food from the Postal and Boy Scout food drives. We have Webster University graduate school interns who volunteer to help our residents. Over the years volunteers have done projects such as enlarging all three kitchens and making two additional bedrooms from unused spaces. Volunteers have renovated or improved every room in our three houses. We presently have several church groups renovating all three houses and our "Free Boutique," which has donated items for our current and past residents. These volunteers are busy painting bedrooms, redecorating, building a wall to close off a laundry/food storage area, landscaping, and many other projects. We have had 3,537 volunteer hours so far this year.

One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others. —Lewis Carroll



I am so proud of the successes of our past residents. I have received letters, phone calls, emails, and pictures from many of them. They are all over the USA, making their mark, improving their lives and the lives of others. A former resident recently called me from Wisconsin asking for advice on starting a shelter home in her area. She said she has a good life now and wants to help other women who need help as she did many years ago.



The mother of the soldier in the tank was a resident of Genesis House in 1979 when he was born. This mother came back with her son about 5 years later to become our house manager for 3 years. She is now on our Board of Advisors.



One of my recent phone calls was from a child, now grown. He started out his life at Genesis House with an angry, stubborn mother who had very low self-esteem and no confidence in herself or trust of others. He was an ill baby with muscle development problems. He went to physical therapy three times a week. His mother reluctantly earned her GED and started college. She discovered that she was very smart and a wonderful writer. He told me how grateful he is for all the help and encouragement I gave him and his mother from the time of his birth, early childhood, and when they returned to live at Genesis House II while his mother finished college and he finished grade school. His mother was on the Dean's List and he had a straight-A report card. He is now in college and plans to go into the military.



The mom featured on the front cover is a former resident. She now lives in Southern California and is an actress and executive producer of a film related to pregnancy and women living in maternity homes. Her son is now in the U.S. Marines, served two tours of duty in Iraq, and recently married.

We will now work on our next 35 years. Please help us with your donations and volunteer time.

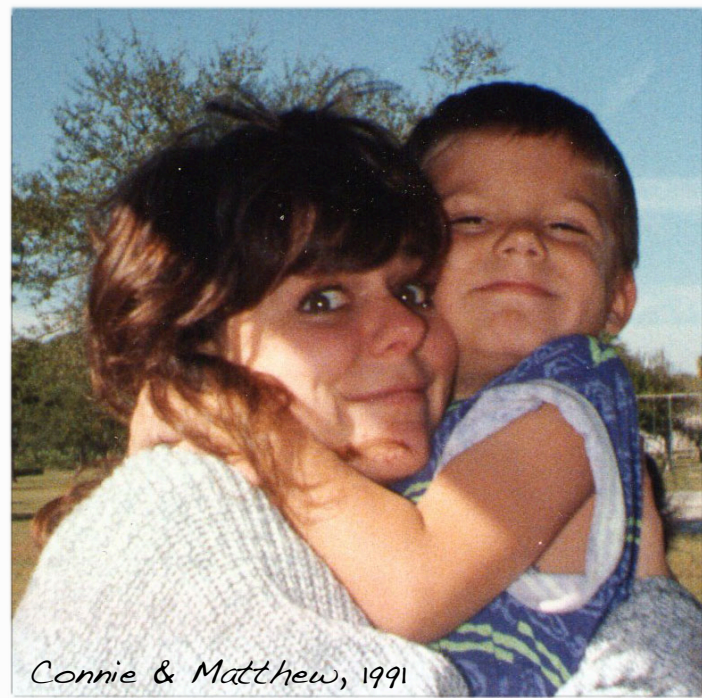
— Mary Allen, Founder and President of the Genesis House Governing Board

IT IS THE MISSION of Genesis House, Inc. to provide transitional shelter for homeless women and their children, long-term housing for student mothers with children, and shelter for homeless pregnant women. Genesis House, Inc. is committed to providing a safe, supportive, caring environment. Education, self-discipline, self-reliance, and independence from the welfare system are earnestly promoted. Counseling, personal improvement classes, and appropriate health care are obtained for all residents. Classes in childbirth and parenting are provided as needed.



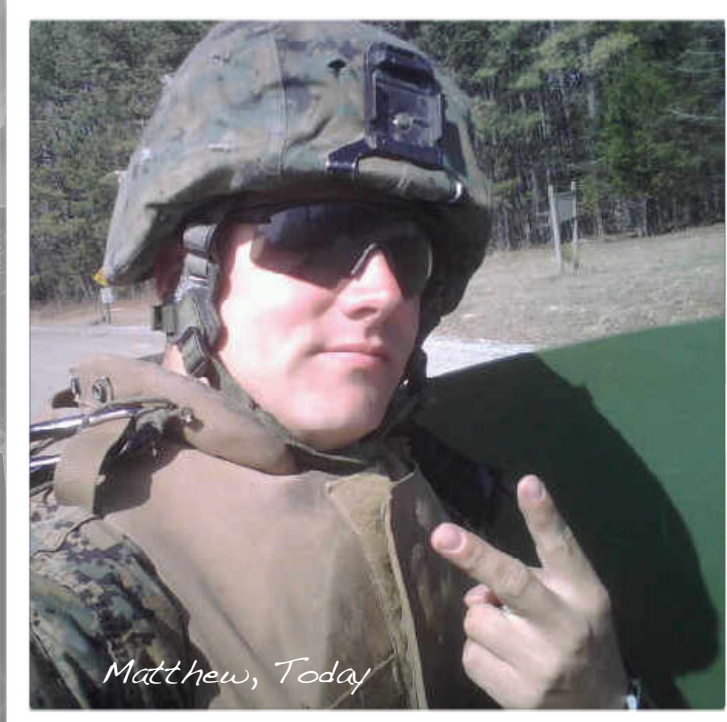
Current and recent residents in front of Genesis House I, Oct 2012

WWW.BEVERLYBENNETT PHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Connie & Matthew, 1991

Our 35th Anniversary, 1977 - 2012



Matthew, Today

OUR NEEDS

ALWAYS NEEDED FINANCIAL HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS
HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SUPPLIES LAUNDRY DETERGENT &
 BLEACH WHITE VINEGAR WINDEX DISHWASHER DETERGENT
 PAPER TOWELS NAPKINS TOILET TISSUE ALUMINUM FOIL
 STORAGE BAGS—QUART, GALLON, SANDWICH-SIZE LARGE
 KITCHEN GARBAGE BAGS SANITIZING WIPES DIAPERS BABY
 WIPES CRIB SHEETS BABY & CHILDREN CLOTHING SKID-PROOF
 AREA RUGS & DOORMATS FITTED SHEETS & MATTRESS
 PROTECTORS FOR DEEP TWIN MATTRESSES PILLOWS &
 PILLOW COVERS BATH TOWELS WASH CLOTHS PERSONAL
 SHOWER BASKETS SOAP SHAMPOO CONDITIONER HAND
 SANITIZERS LAUNDRY BASKETS TABLE CLOTHS (90 & 70 IN.
 ROUND) BUS PASSES GIFT CARDS FOR GAS BIRTHDAY GIFTS—
 MOTHERS & CHILDREN FOOD CERTIFICATES SMALL LOCK
 BOXES FOR RESIDENTS' USE SCHOOL SUPPLIES KITCHEN
 STORAGE CONTAINERS

SPECIAL NEEDS (CALL FIRST) GOOD
 USED CAR FOR A RESIDENT
 ADDITIONAL SHELVING IN GH I
 BASEMENT KITCHEN UTENSILS POTS
 BAKING PANS & DISHES COOKIE
 SHEETS DESKS CHEST-OF-DRAWERS
 NEW DESKTOP PC & PRINTER NEW
 LAPTOP PC PAPER SHREDDER VERTICAL
 BLINDS NEW MICROWAVE OVEN

PROJECTS NEEDED SPONSOR FOR NEXT
 YEAR'S NEWSLETTER WELL, PUMP &
 SPRINKLER SYSTEM FOR GH I
 SEASONAL YARD WORK WIND-
 RESISTANT WINDOWS, DOORS AT GH I
 GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST SLEEPWEAR SWEATERS JACKETS SWEAT SHIRTS SWEAT
 PANTS KNIT TOPS JEANS SHOES SNEAKERS BACKPACKS PURSES WALLET
 GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR CLOTHING & FOOD MOVIE THEATER TICKETS TOYS
 FOR BABIES & CHILDREN GAMES FOR ALL AGES SKID-PROOF HOUSE SHOES
 WATCHES CAMERAS DAY PLANNERS ALARM CLOCKS BABY MONITORS

Christmas gift items are needed by Saturday, Dec 8 for our Christmas party on Tuesday,
 Dec 11. Gifts received after that date will be put under the Christmas trees in the
 houses. Please – gifts unwrapped or in gift bags. For details,
 please leave a message for Mary at
 321-723-3133

Over 13,000 women and children sheltered, and counting...



Genesis House, Inc.

...a new beginning

Genesis House, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

WWW.GENESHOUSE-SHELTER.ORG • P.O. BOX 2044 MELBOURNE, FL 32902
 321-723-3133 (leave a message) • genesishouse@earthlink.net

GOVERNING BOARD

Mary Jane Allen
 Michael D. Allen
 Carol Ashwell
 Laura K. Chiesman
 Janice K. Hill
 Marie Strock

ADVISORY BOARD

Susan Adams
 Dave Ashwell
 Robert L. Cochran, Jr
 Beth Fairchild
 Charles Favors
 Michael Foley
 J.R. Gunther
 Michael C. Hill
 John R. Hopkins
 Andrea Kunert
 Judge John C. Murphy
 Mary Kay O'Toole
 Msgr. David Page
 Les Wilmeth

Some Genesis House, Inc. operations and maintenance are funded by a
 grant from the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families.



The publication of this newsletter was made possible through the generous gift of an anonymous donor.