

Lifehouse Louisville

NEWSLETTER

February, 2012 Issue

“An 11-Year-Old Speaks Out for LIFE” (Part I)

Have you ever been inspired or encouraged when you hear someone’s testimony of how God is moving in their life and using them for His Glory? Well, get ready to be inspired! This is the true story of an 11-year-old little girl who serves God on the frontlines in the ‘battle for life’ several Saturdays a month at the abortion clinic right here in Louisville. Her



name is **Olivia Petrey**, and this is her story, in her own words ...

“I first went to the abortion clinic when I was about seven years old. I heard Angela Minter talking to the people going into the abortion clinic, and I heard her say that we work with an organization called Lifehouse where you can stay and have your baby. Then I started volunteering at the Lifehouse when I was about 9 or 10. The women said they were bored on Saturdays, so the first time I went I took picture frames, brushes and paints, and we all painted and decorated the frames with plastic baby bottles, pacifiers, little plastic babies’ feet and pieces of blue and pink ribbon. And, when they had their babies they were going to put pic-

tures of their babies in them.

For the last couple of years for my birthday, I have been asking all my friends to give donations to Lifehouse instead of birthday presents. My mother and I got the idea from a friend of mine who asked for donations to ‘Right to Life’ instead of birthday presents. My mom suggested that, since I already volunteer at Lifehouse, that I could take donations on my birthday instead of gifts, and so that’s how all this started. I wanted something special to keep the donations in, so my mom helped me make a special Lifehouse mailbox.

I go to the abortion clinic every few Saturdays to help pray. I started doing this about two or three years ago.

When the women go in, I

(cont’d on pg 2)

“A Supporter Shares Her Heart” by Becky Edmondson, Development Director

While having breakfast recently with **Terie Blankenbaker**, a Lifehouse supporter, I asked her a few questions: “How did you get involved, and why do you support Lifehouse?” I was surprised by her response. She said that I had introduced her to Lifehouse soon after they opened. I was surprised because before I

became the Development Director last year, Terie, (my pro-life friend for over 20 years) was involved as a mentor. She reminded me that I had encouraged her to “check it out.”

During our breakfast, Terie shared with me that several of her friends were also mentors

at Lifehouse and had asked her to join them there. She told me that she has a heart for women facing abortion and the plight young women are in with unplanned pregnancies, and the situations they find themselves in because of bad decisions. Terie has seen firsthand that Lifehouse gives these women an opportunity

Our Mission:

THE LIFEHOUSE MISSION IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL NEEDS OF PREGNANT AND/OR PARENTING TEENS AND WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN—BOTH BORN AND UNBORN—IN A CHRIST-CENTERED HOME ENVIRONMENT.

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“An 11-Year-Old Speaks Out for LIFE” (Part I) (cont'd from pg 1)

start talking to them and I say, “This isn’t the only option you have. There are better choices.” This is what I usually say. I got the inspiration from Angela Minter.”

I think you will agree that little Olivia is making a tremendous impact ... an eternal impact that may never be realized on this side of heaven.

Olivia’s parents have always made the importance of ‘life’ a main focus in their family.

Olivia’s mother, Jacquie Petrey, shared the following: “We were very inspired by a little boy named Nicholas Miller who had first requested birthday gifts be given to ‘Right to Life’, and that just got me thinking ... WOW! What if every child did this? Think of what could happen and how many mothers and babies could benefit from this! And then Olivia started going down to the abortion clinic. We think of Angela Minter as a mentor for Olivia.

She invited Olivia to stand by her close to the abortion clinic entrance. Angela is a courageous woman of God who stands there with a Bible in her hand, calling out to these women to give their babies a chance for life. I would like to see more families think about considering this and putting their faith into action. It would make such a difference.

Read Part II in next Newsletter!

“A Supporter Shares Her Heart” (cont'd from pg 1)



to break the cycle and discover God’s plan for their lives.

During our time together, Terie spoke on the phone with Lee, a young woman she had mentored at Lifehouse. While at Lifehouse, Lee, who was a high school dropout, graduated from TAPP before the arrival of her baby. She is now attending school to become a veterinary assistant. Lee is very excited

about her future. Terie and I are joyfully looking forward to having lunch next week with Lee and her beautiful baby.

When people hear that I am a development director for a nonprofit, they usually make comments like: “I would hate your job. I could never ask people for money.” I understand their response, but what they don’t realize is that it’s

people like Terie Blankenbaker who have seen God work in the lives of so many like Lee ... and donors like Terie cheerfully give to Lifehouse because they believe in this vital work.

Contact me at bedmondson@lifehouzelouisville.org or call me at 417-1385 to see how God may involve you in His work here at Lifehouse.

‘Who Opened’ the Gate?’ - Part 2 by Joan Smith



Joan Smith
Founder & Executive
Director of Lifehouse

In our last newsletter, you read the first of a four-part series written by a young woman I met 20 years ago when she was a pregnant teen. Part one introduced you to her family and took you through her first moments of learning of her pregnancy. This second

part takes you through her pregnancy as a single teen, the birth of her baby and into the reality of what it means to be a single mother longing for a future for herself and her child.

Heartbeat

That day came. That mo-

ment came. I still did not understand what I feared. Was it the image of a broken family, even though the reality was not solid? Was it the halt of life conveniences, even though there was little clarity on what they were? Was it suffering? But wait, where did

“Who Opened the Gate?” by a young mother

anyone’s suffering fit into the equation? At six weeks old, the very tiny baby had a heartbeat. I was once six weeks old too ... the baby was alive. This awareness was profound enough to assert, in the second that mattered, no – I could not have an abortion.

I returned home and went to counseling, at which I vividly remember hearing these very important words, “No matter what you do, it will change your life forever.” Forever? I did not plan for forever. I just made the overwhelming life choice, and pregnancy, a time during which my feelings were particularly erratic, was next. I was hopeful when I dreamed my baby and I could handle anything. I was confused when I heard iterations of what I should, should not, could not and would never do. I was satisfied when I fed my baby oranges. I was selfish when I fed my baby cheese balls. I was hurt when I thought people who knew me did not talk to or look at me as they did before. I was informed when I read a book about pregnancy and my baby growing inside of me.

I was anxious when I wondered about how I could work and finish college. I was amused when I felt my baby move. I was dependent when I watched my mom and dad pay for medical bills and baby supplies. I was depressed when I realized that, without self-support, I might have to give my baby up for adoption.

You see ... *the* baby became *my* baby when I decided to share his or her heart with the world. The only peace in the muddled brew was that I already dearly loved my baby, whom I immensely looked forward to meeting for the very first time.

Dismissed

The labor, delivery and afterbirth process from my young body would have seemed boring and unnecessarily painful, absent the fact that childbirth was the most amazing thing I had ever seen. My baby boy, breathing, crying and pot-tying, was big and vivacious! He was a brand new life and the greatest evidence of what my mom and dad had firmly instilled in

me – God. Yet, difficult tests and truths waited to face me on a lonely and narrow path ahead.

I yielded to a perception of child-out-of-wedlock by-products: drug addict, gold digger, loser and slut. I visited a persistent message that I would never be successful. I hit silence amongst those whom I loved the most. I did work for \$4.76 per hour. It was beautiful to watch my baby make people smile. I still prayed and had faith in God when, unexpectedly, I lost my dad. The weight of his passing crumbled my small support system – the frustrations of trying to be a single parent in broken surroundings ultimately overshadowed the course. My son, at eighteen months old, had a dismissed mom and no male model. I did not know how to best improve my own instability or my son’s potential. Were my birth parents in the same dilemma?

I should give my son up for adoption. I was very empty.

(Part 2 of 4)

Watch for future newsletters

“Creating Awareness” by Jim Ray, Volunteer

As Lifehouse moves forward, a key challenge is simply creating "brand awareness." **How do we make our organization stand out and make it more visible? And, how can you help?**

Please consider posting a review on Lifehouse's Google place page or other online profiles. Also, if you have a Facebook page, why not post some comments about Lifehouse, including a link to the website, www.lifehouselouisville.org. Encourage friends to repost.

Our ability to reach a much wider audience is very possible ... with your help. Finally, if you’re a serious supporter of the Lifehouse mission, consider adding it to your email signature. Remember, **“Lifehouse ... It’s a Matter of Life!”**

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“THIS AWARENESS WAS PROFOUND ENOUGH TO ASSERT, IN THE SECOND THAT MATTERED, NO — I COULD NOT HAVE AN ABORTION.”



Lifehouse Louisville is a beautiful home in a residential neighborhood at 2710 Riedling Drive. Contact Becky (502-417-1385) for a tour.



Louisville

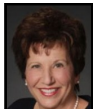
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We're on the web!

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April 3, 2012 - SAVE THE DATE!

A regional theater company, **The Blue Apple Players**, along with residents of Lifehouse, will create a docudrama, which will be presented during the third annual **UNITY FOR LIFE Event on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.**

This year's event will be held at **The Woman's Club**, a beautiful venue located at **1320 South Fourth Street** in Louisville.

The Woman's Club shares the Lifehouse mission to help improve the lives of women and children in our

community. Please **save the date, mark your calendar, and plan to attend** this exciting evening that will feature our residents telling the story of "Life at Lifehouse."

Bob Russell, former senior minister of Southeast Christian Church, will be joining us and sharing thoughts about the ministry of Lifehouse.

For more details about the event and to purchase tickets, please visit us at www.lifehouzelouisville.org



NEEDS ...

We need a digital camera and office chairs for our office.

Please contact us if you can help with any of these needs.

Thank you!!

