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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**March - April, 2007**

**Fredericksburg Office**

910 Littlepage Street, Suite A  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
Director: Joan Richwine, MSW, LSW

540-373-5165: Bethany Office  
540-370-1800 Pregnancy Center

**Web Address:**

[www.bethany.org/fredericksburg](http://www.bethany.org/fredericksburg)  
[www.bethanypregnancycenter.com](http://www.bethanypregnancycenter.com)

**Hours:**

Monday- Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 27, 2007**

Bethany of Fredericksburg Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**March 29, 2007 and April 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**

Champions for Children Open House  
910 Littlepage St., Fredericksburg, VA

**April 3, 2007**

Domestic Adoption Information Meeting  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Bethany office, Call to register

**April 28, 2007**

Coaching Couples Training, Call to register  
Spotsylvania Presbyterian Church

**October 9, 2007**

Annual Fund Raising Banquet  
Grace Church of Fredericksburg

## To Marry or Not to Marry?

It is not new news that the pregnancy rate among single women in Virginia is at an all time high. The city of Fredericksburg has the fifth highest pregnancy rate in Virginia. Documentation shows that children born to unmarried mothers are more likely to:

- grow up in a single parent home
- experience poverty
- experience unstable living arrangements
- have emotional problems

Adolescents from single parent households generally:

- attain a lower level of education
- engage in sex at a younger age

They are also more likely to experience a non-marital birth, perpetuating the problem to the next generation.

There are clearly negative results when couples cohabit, not just for them but also for their children. So, why don't couples want to tie the knot when there are positive benefits to marriage? Researchers have identified financial and relationship obstacles as the primary reason that low-income couples will break up or not marry. Low levels of literacy, substance abuse, domestic violence and unsafe neighborhoods also contribute to relationship stress.

**Bethany Christian Services** response to this growing problem facing young parents is a new initiative called **Bethany Connections**. This program will offer low income unmarried couples who are expecting or have an infant up to the age of three months, the opportunity to connect with an experienced, caring, coaching couple. The coaching couple will take them through a 6-8 week program which will explore the positive benefits of marriage and assist them in

developing basic parenting skills. They will receive individual assistance and specific information relevant to their needs. These young couples are at a strategic point in their lives. Helping them overcome some of these hurdles will have a tremendous impact on their lives as individuals, as couples and as parents.

**Bethany Connections** is looking for mature coaching couples who have stable marriages and who desire to help couples in these types of circumstances. Bethany will provide the training needed to equip you for the task. Our first training is April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. If you are interested in becoming a coaching couple, please contact Louise Motsko at 540-0373-6463 ([LMotsko@bethany.org](mailto:LMotsko@bethany.org)).

## We're Moving!!

During 2006, **Bethany** in Fredericksburg ministered to more men and women than ever before. We are gratified that God continues to send us hurting women and sometimes their partners. We believe we have a unique place of refuge where these clients can be served and where they can get more than just baby and maternity clothing. We have been blessed to be able to offer some limited medical services which we hope to expand in 2007.

As we have grown it has become obvious that we need more space to adequately serve those whom God is sending to us. The lease on our current space ends on April 30. We have been actively seeking space which will allow us to meet our growing client needs.

At this point, we believe we will be relocating to 1616 Stafford Avenue during the last week in April. We are grateful for God's provision. Our new space will allow us to expand our medical services and to conduct some of our adoption meetings on the premises. We are eagerly looking forward to this change and expect

that God will multiply our opportunities to serve him in 2007. Please be in prayer for us as we face these new challenges. We look forward with excitement to seeing what God will do at **Bethany** in 2007.

*Joan Richwine, Director*

## Welcome

Mary Beth Bova joined our staff on February 19, 2007. She comes to us with a wealth of adoption experience and will replace Louise Motsko who is now the case management specialist for our Healthy Marriage/Connections program. Mary Beth is married to Tim. They have two children, Christopher, age 12 and Alicia, age 11. Please welcome her when you visit **Bethany**.



Mary Beth

## WISH LIST

**Bethany** needs the following items:

1. New copy machine
2. Nice floor and/or table lamps.
3. An additional nurse to be trained to serve our patients
4. Full size, small (10 cubic foot) refrigerator
5. Cabinets to store baby clothing and office supplies

***“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of your mercy, and because of your truth.” -- Psalm 115:1***

## Prayer and Thanksgiving

**Thank** God for the provision of new space in which to serve the clients He sends us.

**Thank** God for the healing that Kathy Richards, Board Member and foster mother, has experienced. Kathy was able to attend our last Board meeting in January.

**Pray** for the beginning of **Bethany's Connections** program. Pray for interest among our clients and for committed, coaching couples to guide those who desire to participate in this program.

**Pray** that God would continue to send us birth mothers who need our services.

**Praise** God for sending us a new social worker who is both compassionate and well qualified to do the work.

**Pray** that our move will go smoothly with only very minor interruptions in service.

## Welcome Home, Faith

Greg, Kim and Jacob had the privilege of welcoming Faith Jehanne into their family on January 11, 2007. Jacob was particularly excited about the little sister for whom he had prayed. Faith and her Mommy flew home to Korea on February 1 to rejoin Daddy and brother Jacob. Once again it has been our privilege at **Bethany** to watch God work to provide homes for children and children for families. We rejoice in watching Him work.



Kim, Greg, Faith and Jacob