



# MY 2012 WINTER NEWSLETTER FIRST DAY Part 2 of 2



## Romans 8:28

**And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.**

I vividly remember the day I first held my son in the hospital, wondering where life would lead me from here. Knowing my family would never support my decision to be an unwed mother, and knowing I was alone in this country with no one to support me; I tried very hard to give up my son for adoption. But I just could not bring myself to do it. So, I decided to keep my son for a few days, knowing I still had a place at Hannah House. I had not attended prenatal classes and I had no idea how to even change a diaper. The first time I changed my son's diaper, I sat there for 5 minutes trying to figure out how a diaper was supposed to go on a baby. It was a strange transition; a few days ago I was an honors student at college on my way to completing a management degree and now I was learning about being a mother. Things had changed so drastically in my life; the only constant was the staff of Hannah House.

I lived at Hannah House for 7 months. During that time I learned how to be a mother, learned how to take care of my precious baby. The staff at Hannah House was so loving and caring, I wondered how they could love complete strangers, often with many problems and issues, and show such genuine affection. They took a keen interest in every resident and baby and ensured that during their stay they received counselling, parenting courses and education to really succeed in life after Hannah House. Each and every staff member knew that God had put them in that house to be family to vulnerable young moms at one of the most important times of their lives. During my stay at Hannah House, I slowly broke the news to my family about the baby and they in turn disowned me completely. I informed my boyfriend, who was in his last year of university, about the baby. He in turn had to convince his parents to allow him to move to Canada so that he could be with us. It was an emotional roller coaster; many days and nights were just spent crying because the pain was simply unbearable. Throughout it all the staff of Hannah House was always there beside me.

The staff quickly became my family and even after moving out of Hannah House, they continued to keep in touch, helping me out as needed, filling in for the gap of my own family. Once my boyfriend joined us in Canada, we decided to get married. My wedding day was bitter sweet. I grieved in my heart as my family chose not to attend the wedding but I also had all the staff of Hannah House at my wedding, working hard to make my wedding day extra special. As I began building a life after Hannah House, all the valuable lessons I learned there helped me succeed. Their generosity and love changed my outlook on life. My husband and I completed our studies and found jobs in our respective fields. I had an amazing opportunity to work at Hannah House. As years passed my family forgave me completely, one family member at a time. A few years later we all reconciled and finally moved on, becoming one family. God bestowed many blessings on our lives including welcoming another son and building a whole new life in Canada.

It's been 10 years since I walked through the doors of Hannah House. I am now a mother of two children, have a loving husband, a good job, a home and loving family and friends around me. But I know none of this would have been possible if Hannah House had not opened its doors to me all those years ago. Even now they continue to be a loving home, offering refuge and support for young moms and their babies. I know firsthand the difference this organization makes in many young womens' lives. Hannah House changed my life forever. Without Hannah House my life would've turned out very differently, my son would not have been with me. I am forever grateful to God for this amazing organization and its supporters.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support for the ministry of Hannah House in this past year. You are giving Birth to Hope with each gift. When you support Hannah House you support our programs...equipping in life skills, healthy attachment for mom and baby, parental guidance, healthy meals on a healthy budget. Working together, your gifts enable us to provide Biblical guidance, emotional, social and physical support for young moms and babies.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

Christmas Blessings

Cheryl Plett  
Executive Director

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT HANNAH HOUSE

- 2013 Breakfast Fundraiser:** Friday, February 22, 2013 from 6:45AM-8:30AM at Club Italia, 2525 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls, ON. Our guest will be Moira Brown from 100 Huntley Street. For more information about Moira, visit [www.100huntley.com](http://www.100huntley.com) Seating is limited, reserve your spot today by registering at <http://2013hannahhousebreakfast.eventbrite.com> or call 905-353-8552 ext 206
- NEW!** Our 'Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign' has moved to a new date...March 24 to Mother's Day 2013. Contact Lindy to sign up your church, youth group, small group or business to participate this year. A fun and easy way for you, your church or your business to support at risk youth and the mission of Hannah House.
- NEW!** Rain Barrel Fundraiser. Give green this Christmas while supporting Hannah House! Order a Rain Barrel in time for Christmas by following the instructions under 'Events' at [www.hannahhouse.ca](http://www.hannahhouse.ca) or calling 905-353-8552 ext 204, wrap up your certificate to arrange pickup on April 11, 2013.
- Golf Tournament for Hannah House:** July 19, 2013 1:00PM shotgun at Fort Erie Golf Club. Cost: \$75.00 per person. For more information visit [www.hannahhouse.ca](http://www.hannahhouse.ca)
- Volunteers needed:** Would you be interested in helping with removing snow at Hannah House, babysitting, teaching crafts or cooking? If so, please contact Jennifer at 905-353-8552 ext 204 or download a volunteer application online at [www.hannahhouse.ca](http://www.hannahhouse.ca)

## GIVING BIRTH TO HOPE

Consider giving birth to hope by signing up below to become a monthly partner. Your monthly contribution allows us to walk alongside youth at risk in our community each day, helping them to make positive changes in their lives.

If you are interested in joining our VIP list and staying up to date on events at Hannah House please scan the QR code below or text "blessing" to 76000.

## Donation Slip

Charitable Registration Number: 83172-7268 RR0001

Thank you for making an investment into the lives of young girls and their babies.

Please fill out this form clearly and kindly make cheques payable to Hannah House. A receipt for your investment will be mailed to you once a year for your income tax purposes.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

#### GIFT OPTION 1 BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER

**AUTOMATIC CHEQUE GIFTS**  
I hereby authorize Hannah House to withdraw the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my account on the 20th day of each month beginning in the month of \_\_\_\_\_ this year \_\_\_\_\_.

Become A Monthly Partner  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a cheque from your account with "VOID" written on it.

#### GIFT OPTION 2 BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER

**AUTHORIZED CREDIT CARD GIFTS**  
I hereby authorize Hannah House to bill my credit card for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on the 20th day of each month beginning in the month of \_\_\_\_\_ this year \_\_\_\_\_.

CARD TYPE: Visa  Mastercard   
CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME AS APPEARS ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### GIFT OPTION 3

**ONE TIME GIFTS**  
I would like to make a one time investment to Hannah House for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

#### GIFT OPTION 4

Scan or Text "blessing" to 76000 to give your gift.

