

*M*y life before Heritage Home was a complete disaster. It all started with my childhood, how I was raised, the role models I had, and the horrifying experiences I went through. I had been through so much by the age of 14, that I dealt with my feelings of anger, sadness, fear and even happiness by using drugs. That's how my story begins.

I ran away numerous times and was in and out of Juvenile Hall until I was 18 years old. After that, I got deeper into my drug addiction. I was homeless and doing anything to feed my addiction. The next thing I knew, I was pregnant, homeless and living in an abandoned trailer with no food, water or heat. One morning I woke up and realized I needed help. For once in my life, I put someone else first: my daughter. Something inside me told me to call my dad and ask for help. Four hours later, I was on a bus and then on the internet, looking for a place for pregnant women. I left everything behind; drugs, my boyfriend and even old memories. I called Heritage Home, went for an interview and was accepted an hour later. I walked out with a big smile on my face, saying "Thank you!"

While being at Heritage Home, I have discovered who my higher power is, God. God has helped me with my addiction and with my daughter. He has given me strength, courage and a willingness to change my whole outlook. He has given me life, and helped me accept myself and others.

My life has changed dramatically since coming to Heritage Home. The program staff and volunteers have taught me many life skills including: parenting skills, relationship skills, financial planning, respecting myself and others, how to be independent, how to view things from another perspective, as well as how to overcome my addiction through the twelve-step program. The schooling provided has helped me start the process of getting my GED. Most importantly, Heritage Home has given me the right skills to become a good mom to Gracie Lynne, my beautiful daughter.



Brittany

*B*efore coming to Heritage Home, I was addicted to drugs and alcohol. I was unable to stay sober. The people I surrounded myself with were all getting arrested, including my baby's father. I got scared and went back to my mother's house; but after finding out I was pregnant, she wanted me out. I didn't want to keep using drugs and I didn't have anybody else to turn to who didn't use, so I talked to a pregnancy counselor named Pam. She was very helpful and guided me back to God. She gave me a Bible and read John 3:16 to me. She also called Heritage Home for me.

I will never forget the day I was accepted into Heritage Home, it was January 18th, on a Friday, after lunch. I was 4 ½ months pregnant. They asked me about my past life history and said that Heritage Home could help me if I was willing to change and wanted to break my addictions. They weren't kidding. I had no idea this program had so much to offer! They helped me deal with my additions and I got to hear real testimonies that inspired me to stay clean at AA meetings each week.

Today, I am proud to say that I have 8 months and 3 weeks clean. The program is what I needed to become a good mother. Not only because I have a child, but because I know how important it is to be sober when raising a child. If I was still using, I wouldn't be able to take responsibility and care for my son. I praise God for all the volunteers that come and teach us life skills, anger management, how to have healthy relationships, and parenting skills! With this education, I have confidence when caring for my baby. I know that I am doing the right thing for myself and for my son.

My son is two months old now and I see the change in my life in a new way. I just graduated from Heritage Home and I am working as well. I was recently given an opportunity to serve as an intern at Heritage Home which will allow me to become part of the staff and to help my fellow sisters. I'm blessed by what Heritage Home has given me and my baby and by what God is doing in my life. I'm so grateful that I could be here!



Leilani

*M*y life before Heritage Home was full of nothing but sorrow; because I allowed all the hurt and pain from my childhood to hinder me and I became someone I never wanted to be. As I got older, the pain and hurt was from the destruction I caused by using alcohol and drugs since the age 13. I thought I was using drugs and alcohol to better my situation, but I was wrong. The drugs and alcohol were controlling me. I always knew that God existed, but I chose the wrong path for all the wrong reasons. God gave me three beautiful gifts, my children, and I chose drugs over them and today they have no relationship as siblings because they are in the care of someone else other than me. I felt guilty, and ashamed, and I used that as an excuse to numb my feelings with drugs.

I hit rock bottom and ended up in jail, on my way to prison, but God answered my prayer and the prayers of others, and the courts and parole board decided to give me a chance. I was pregnant for the fourth time, that's when I found out about Heritage Home, and once I got released from jail, I came to Heritage Home.

I believe God has a plan for me; to be here to learn, love and grow in Christ. Most of all, doing what is His will, to obtain sobriety so that I can become the mom He intended me to be. Not just for while I'm here, but also for the future. After everything I've done wrong, my life has changed because of God. He has given me the faith, patience, strength, and willingness to do the footwork to make the change be effective and productive. I now take full responsibility for my actions. Thank you for whatever part you have in helping Heritage Home! Without this home, I would still be lost, homeless and broken.



Shacola

2 Corinthians 8: 1–7 The Offering

(1–4) “Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.”

(5–7) “This was totally spontaneous, entirely their own idea, and caught us completely off guard. What explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives. That’s what prompted us to ask Titus to bring the relief offering to your attention, so that what was so well begun could be finished up. You do so well in so many things—you trust God, you’re articulate, you’re insightful, you’re passionate, you love us—now, do your best in this, too.”

The Message

CityTeam strives to maintain the highest level of financial accountability at all times and our financial information is open and above reproach. CityTeam’s Board of Trustees continues to operate an active Finance and Audit committee; the organization’s financial statements are audited annually by an independent accounting firm. Moreover, CityTeam is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and abides by all its standards of responsible stewardship. Please contact us if you would like more financial information.

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