

# The Living Vine, Inc.



## The Living Vine Christian Maternity Home

Impacting two generations by allowing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to shine hope into the lives of women experiencing crisis pregnancies.

A place to grow,  
A place to change,  
A place to prepare  
To love, live & succeed.

## Catherine's Story

My name is Catherine and I am 16 years old. I was born in Ukraine. My mother had my sister at 16, and then a year and a half later my mother had me. Growing up, my mom was never there for me or my sister because she was too busy going to clubs and running around with men. All her boyfriends would abuse her physically and mentally. Then she would take her anger out on us by making us kneel on our knees after she poured salt on the floor; it would burn, but she didn't care.

One early Easter morning, I found my grandfather lying dead in his bed. He was the closest person to a parent I had at the time. When I turned four years old my mom abandoned my sister and me. She left us in an orphanage. Being in an orphanage, I didn't learn how to respect my authority, do my homework every night or that drugs are bad. But I did learn how to smoke, drink, get high and steal!

When I was 11 my sister and I were adopted by an amazing Christian family in the US. They loved and cared for us. Even though I finally had a family, I still felt empty. I didn't feel wanted. I felt worthless. I

always thought that I had to impress somebody; I started hanging out with the wrong crowd and wrong guys. Then I found out that I was boy crazy. I started sneaking around my parents back to drink and smoke; I was involved with guys much older than I was. I was lying about my age too. I felt wanted and loved by them. Now I realize that they just used me. At school, I was being called bad names, but that didn't stop me. Even my adoptive mother called me things that hurt me and made me angry, so I became even worse.

This past October I found out I was pregnant. I was terrified to tell my parents. I started having suicidal thoughts. I just wanted my baby to disappear so I could go on with my life. Even the father of my baby was pushing me to have an abortion. He didn't want a baby either. I waited a week and finally told my parents that I was pregnant by writing them a letter. I was expecting my parents to yell at me and send me away, but they didn't. My parents gave me a choice, if I would like to stay at home or go somewhere else that would be safe for me to have this child.

I chose to go away. I didn't want to face the rest of my family because I felt like I had ruined everything and I didn't deserve my parents' love! So that's how I ended up at The Living Vine. While I have been here, God has opened my eyes and has revealed Himself to me as my Father. He has forgiven me and He will never leave me alone. I have also learned a lot about respecting authority. I want to have favor with God and man. I want to make my relationship right with my family. I want to honor my mom and dad.

While here, I have been working on my high school education. I want to graduate and then go to cosmetology school. One day I would like to open my own beauty salon—that is my American dream.

After I have my baby, I am planning on going back home. My birth mom was so young that she was not able to provide for me and my sister. I have decided to place my son for adoption so he can have all the things he needs.

Thank you for supporting the Vine and taking care of me and my son.



## From the Heart of The Vine...

We celebrated our first annual "Day of Blessings" in February and, if you were there, you know what a blessing it was! If you were not able to be there, take heart; this was the first of many! We will be celebrating again next year. So, be sure to mark your calendar when we set the date for next year.

We thank Glynda Smith for the vision God gave her to begin this annual event. There are so many people to thank for the time and effort they put forth to make it come to fruition. God knows who you are and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The food was delicious and the Blessingdales' fashion show was so much fun.

Glynda's testimony was truly amazing. Everyone was touched by it. It reminds us that God is always in control and His timing is perfect.

I am most proud of our Vine girls. After all, they are the reason we are here. By seeing them stand up for the Lord and give testimony to what He has done in their lives, it makes everything we do worthwhile. Our name, The Living Vine, comes from John 15:5. It says that we must abide in Him if we want to produce lasting fruit. These girls and the ones who have come before them and the ones who will surely come after them are that "lasting fruit." This is a wonderful ministry in which to be involved and we want to thank all of you who stand with us in it.

In Him, the True Vine,

Claire Hodges

He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.

John 8:7b

## Vine's Needs List:

### House hold items:

(2) Kitchen trash cans: blue or white  
 4-8 yellow gold throw pillows  
 Indoor/outdoor entrance rugs  
 Nonskid bathroom rugs  
 Large rug for dining room  
 Decorative pillows  
 (2) Vacuums  
 VCR with TV Guardian  
 HE laundry detergent  
 Stamps, permanent markers  
 Pantry Staples: soups, healthy cereals, crackers, fruit juices  
 Baking supplies, snacks  
 Coffee: regular & decaf

### Gift Certificates:

Wal-mart/Sam's, Home Depot,  
 Office Max, Kroger, Lifeway  
 Barnetts School Supply Store

### Large Vine Projects:

New carpeting  
 New flooring: Kitchen & dining room  
 Large dining room table & chairs  
 Front door & threshold  
 (2) Sofas for our living room  
 Motion Sensors Lights replaced  
 Reglazing/replacing tubs & tiles

### Blessingdales:

We are in need of a truck for furniture donations. If you have one you could donate, please call the Vine at 352.9998.

### Spring cleaning?

Our stores are always in need of decorations, home accessories and pictures.

We welcome your donations.

### School Supplies:

New desks & chairs  
 Notebook paper --college ruled  
 Spiral Notebooks--college ruled  
 Index cards, reams of paper  
 Mechanical pencils, pens  
 ANY educational videos--(Science & History)  
 Used computers able to do word processing  
 Gift Certificates for sewing supplies

### THIS IS A SHOUT OUT TO ALL HOMESCHOOL MOMS.

ANY used textbooks as old as year 2000 & ANY level. Particular need for economics text and 10th/11th grade American History.

## Fundraising ideas

Here are some ideas that you, your church or group could organize to benefit THE LIVING VINE:

1. Host an adult or youth Prayer Breakfast
2. Bake Sale
3. Organize a Bridge, Canasta or Ma Jong event
4. Wild Game Supper
5. Pancake Supper
6. Grill and Sell Boston Butts
7. Sell freezable casseroles
8. Garage or Yard Sale

Call the Vine to tell us what you'd like to do. We will be happy to assist if needed.

## UPDATE from the PAST....

Dear Ms. Debbie,

God truly blessed me when He placed The Living Vine in my life. When I came there I was scared and confused. I held so much anger in my heart. You helped me learn how to let go of the anger. The love I received from the staff really showed me that I could trust again and I could receive true love. I know now that had it not been for God and the love I received from all of you I would not have made it. Thank you for not giving up on me. You all helped make me the strong woman I am today. I love the Living Vine so much and I hope God continues to bless it.

Love always,  
Brianna

*The statistics on pregnancy reveal that the USA exceeds most of the numbers presented by developed and developing countries alike. Approximately 800,000 teenagers get pregnant each year in the U.S.*

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

A special THANK YOU to all of The Living Vine & Blessingdales Volunteers.

We are so grateful that you serve along side of the board, staff & guild.

May the Lord be glorified in all we do!

## Please Pray About How You Can Get Involved

### VOLUNTEER CORNER

I truly love this ministry. Though I came here thinking I would be teaching the residents something, I ended up learning a lot myself. The principles that are set in place for the residents have become principles that I can center my life on as well. They can benefit you in life if you stick to them or they can hurt you if you stray away.

Learning how to communicate with so many different personalities has been a highlight of my year. There were difficult times because of personality conflicts, but overall, it helped me learn to be more sensitive to people's wants and needs. I didn't expect the challenge of learning how to communicate with other personalities because I thought I was a pretty good people person. But I found out that it takes more than just being a "people person," it takes a heart that is set on truly caring for someone, regardless of how they act or behave.

I think the best part of being involved with the Vine is seeing the body of Christ functioning as it should. We have so much support from so many churches and people of different backgrounds. That's what it's supposed to look like, different people joining together for a cause with the common denominator being Christ and His glory.

I look forward to see how God is moving in this ministry and growing it.  
Melody S, Semester Missionary

**The Living Vine is NOT a shelter for pregnant women. We offer a PROGRAM which includes the following disciplines:**

**Women of Excellence Program**

1. Honoring Authority
2. Respect for Self & Others
3. Scripture memorization
4. Time Management
5. Order & Cleanliness
6. Personal Responsibility
7. Responsibility for one's attitude & words
8. Learning to forgive and ask for forgiveness
9. Conflict Resolution
10. Work Ethic
11. Team Work



The Living Vine, Inc.

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Visit us on-line: thelivingvine.org

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SAVANNAH, GA

**A LITTLE change can  
make a BIG difference!**

**So far, our baby bottle  
fundraiser has raised over  
\$56,000!**

**Please join the baby bottle  
campaign. Baby bottles are  
available at The Living Vine**

Address Service Requested

*“Our services are offered free of charge in the name of Jesus Christ to demonstrate His love.”*

## **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**Fred Blackburn**

**Dr. Allan Bosson**

**Ann Bryant**

**Don Hodges, Co-founder**

**Claire Hodges, Co-founder**

**Jack Marvin**

**Carrie Murray-Nellis**

**Tom Nash**

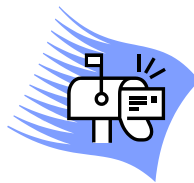
**Barry Nelson**

**Charlene Nelson**

**Gil Nellis**

**Linda Sapp**

**Glynda Smith**



## **Newsletter Request:**

In an effort to be the most responsible with the resources God supplies us, we are trying to convert as many as would be willing to receive our newsletter by e-mail. If this is something you would like, please email The Living Vine at [thelivingvine@hotmail.com](mailto:thelivingvine@hotmail.com) and provide your information. We believe God will bless and multiply as we continue to seek ways to minimize our expenses. Thank you for helping us honor God's provision.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE OUR  
FIRST ANNUAL “DAY OF BLESSINGS”  
FOR THE LIVING VINE A HUGE SUCCESS.**

## ***Blessingdales Thrift Stores***

### **2118 Bona Bella**

Savannah #912.355.4339  
M,T,Th,F: 10-5 Sat: 10-3

### **309 East Main Street**

Garden City #912.966.2242  
T,W, Th, F: 10-5 Sat: 10-3

### **305 W Collins Street**

Pooler #912.330.0220  
M,T,W,F: 10-5 Sat: 10-3

### **134 Houston St**

Savannah #912.236.2034  
M,T,W,F: 10-5 Sat: 10-3

*Donations Appreciated*