

Beatrice & Jane



Growing up in Kenya

I was born and raised in Kenya. My birth mother, Jane raised me alone after her sons died. She wanted to give me a better life than she had and the only way she could do that was to leave her birthplace and move closer to Lake Victoria. But life was very difficult. We never had enough food or clothes. I missed school because we could not afford it. The only way we could survive was by me becoming a servant to a family she met. I made \$20/month. I was nine years old. I went to the lake to wash clothes and dishes. I also did their cooking and cleaning. I remember taking their children to school while I couldn't go because I was their servant.

Finally someone convinced my mother that I should go to school. She took me out of that situation and placed me in one of the free special schools, Christ's Gift Academy. The school was for orphans who had lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. It was wonderful even though I was much older than the other children. My mom had also taken another young girl who would later become my sister. Then my mom got sick and went to her family to be cared for where she died. I was ten and alone.

Christ's Gift Academy was started by a couple who invited Judi to come and teach there. Judi adopted me and my sister two years later. We moved back to the states with her to be raised.



HOPE CLINIC FOR WOMEN

Arriving at Hope Clinic

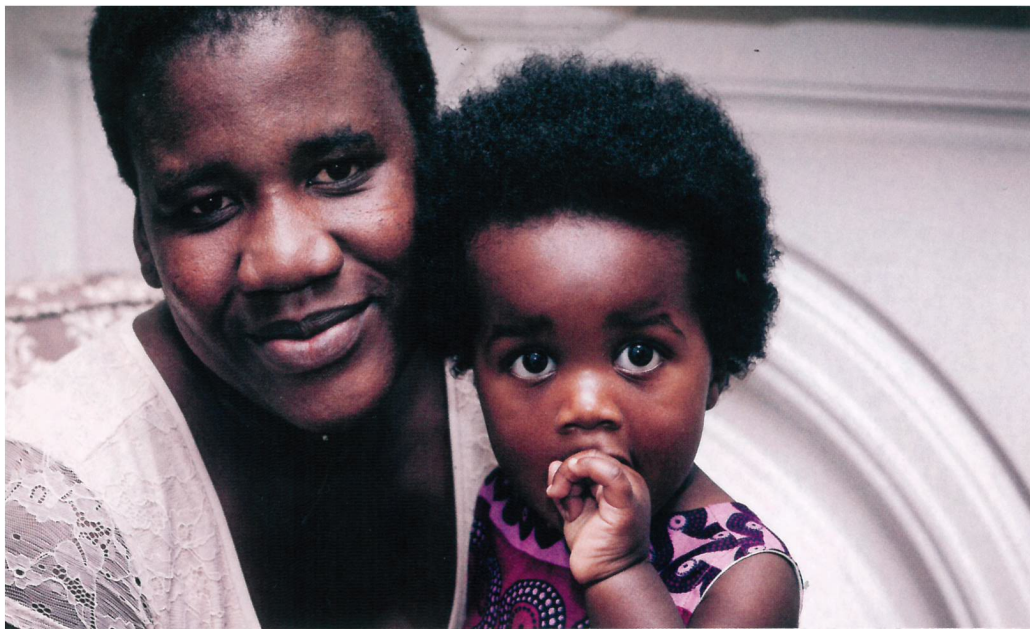
I first heard about Hope Clinic while I was in Oklahoma where my daughter Jane Elisabeth was born. I attended a place similar to Hope Clinic in Oklahoma. After things fell apart with Jane's father, I decided to move to Nashville to be closer to family. I asked my mom if she knew of a place to help me and she found Hope Clinic. I was so excited. I desperately needed a place where I would not be judged for what I did and for Jane to be loved and truly cared for. I found that with Hope Clinic.

I called a few days later and made an appointment. Jane was maybe a couple months old and the ladies at the front desk welcomed us with open arms. I knew immediately that I had found a place that was safe; where I could talk freely about all my problems and someone would just listen. My only initial concern was that this place would not be as good as the place in Oklahoma, but I can honestly say that Hope Clinic is better.



Finding hope

I was so bitter and angry at the world when I arrived at Hope Clinic. I blamed myself for what happened. I never wanted to be a single mom and yet all of a sudden I found myself being exactly what I feared most. I kept coming back because I felt hope with Hope Clinic. I felt like I met people I could trust with my story. I kept coming back because I knew especially after seeing all the other women come through that it was okay to say you need extra help. I had a friendly counselor to advise me, encourage me and help me let go of the past in order to move on. Baby Jane also kept me going. She gave me the determination to make myself a better person and to admit that yes, I needed help. From her I learned that true love begins with sacrifice and if I was going to be a good mother to her, I had to sacrifice pride.



Comprehensive care

I used all the services they offered. I had a mentor where we talked about how to be a good mother, issues that I was dealing, how to get past those issues and how to focus on the important factor: being a good mother to Jane. I also had a professional counselor where we talked

mostly about me, what was going on in my life, my dreams, what I would like to change about myself, and goals I had for myself. It was all a very good experience. The ladies who took care of Jane were examples of Christ-like love. Hope Clinic literally fed and clothed Jane for over eight months of her life. I got formula and diapers, clothes, toys and games for Jane. The beautiful thing is that even without knowing it, Hope Clinic is clothing children in Kenya as we speak. Jane's outgrown clothes were taken back to Kenya by parents to bless children over there.

I now have so many dreams. One of them is to raise a loving, Christ fearing daughter of God. Another is to do the best that I can with whatever resources I am blessed with. I would

love to have a job that I am absolutely passionate about and love. I would love to get married so Jane can have a father to love on her. My parents are getting older but it is my dream to buy them a house one day.





A note from Kelsey (Beatrice's counselor)

Although she presented herself very well, I immediately sensed a great deal of pain and sorrow in both her voice and body language as she shared her story. After working with Beatrice for several months, I noticed numerous changes happening in her life. Beatrice sat in front of me week after week ready to discuss, evaluate, and work through several tough issues. She showed tremendous progress over the course of our time together, displaying joy, independence, a positive attitude, and perseverance. Beatrice is the true definition of a courageous, determined, and hard-working young woman.

A note from Stasi (Beatrice's mentor)

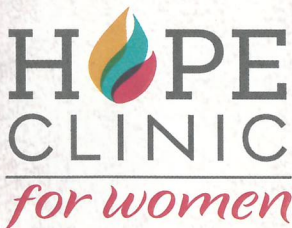
In my first visit with Beatrice, she told me that she didn't like God and she was pretty sure the feeling was mutual. She had been badly hurt by the baby's father. Understandably, she was angry and felt very alone. By the end of our time together, Beatrice had a full-time job and her own apartment for her and Jane! She smiles all the time and finds true joy in being a mother. She attends church regularly and finds hope in God. Beatrice let go of the bitterness she was holding toward the baby father, knowing it was only holding her back.



It's all about hope...

Hope Clinic helps women in so many ways. If you are down, take the hand of Hope Clinic and get back up on your feet. That is what they are all about. Better yet, the hand is given at no charge and all you have to do is admit you need help and you are willing to grow. There is no shame in admitting you need counseling. Any mother who is struggling financially or in a dark place just needs to see that Hope Clinic is the light, who just have to take baby steps and follow that light. That is the first beginning to becoming a better person and a better parent to your child(ren). It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of Hope Clinic for Women.

Hope Clinic offers a range of comprehensive services to serve clients dealing with a variety of issues including physical, clinical, emotional, practical and spiritual needs.



**1810 Hayes Street
Nashville, TN 37203**

**615.321.0005
hopeclinicforwomen.org**