



## Testimonials from “Our Girls”



**Amanda Arrington** is 19 years old and grew up in church with her family. She was baptized at an early age and knew who Jesus was. She knew right from wrong but when she was 12 years old she smoked her first cigarette. From that time on her life began spiraling out of control. As the years progressed so did the seriousness of drugs. Amanda never had a problem with self esteem but the drugs and guys pushed her further and further away from the ones she loved and trusted the most. Anger and depression became a way of life. She graduated high school but the memories were very vague. Leaving home and staying gone became a routine for Amanda until her boyfriend got locked up and she had a miscarriage and lost her baby. Amanda was looking for someone to love her and Jesus Christ was the only one that could fill that void in her life. She reached out to Hope

Harbor and renewed that relationship. For anyone that knows Amanda knows what a great future God must have planned for her. Now she can offer other young individuals going through painful addictions hope in Jesus Christ! James 4:10 "Humble yourself before God, and He will lift you up."



**Amanda Elkins** began her journey at Hope Harbor in November 2009. She had lost all hope and depression was a battle every day. For seventeen years she had been drinking, smoking, abusing many kinds of drugs and hanging out with bad people. She was trapped in her own personal prison. She had lived on the streets, gave one son up for adoption, stole from her mom, and was very deceitful. Even though she was a beautiful young lady, she saw no beauty at all when she looked into the mirror. For years her life revolved around obtaining and using cocaine. She thought she had destroyed all important relationships in her life including her mom, dad, and even her children. Today, Amanda looks in the mirror and loves this transformed young lady she has become. When Amanda called out to God He heard her prayer. There is no limit to our asking, only to our thinking.

Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Joy and Peace are evident in her life now. Amanda has restored all relationships and looks forward to reuniting with her family upon graduation. It now gives her great joy and pleasure to serve God by helping other ladies see that life can be worth living.



Hope Harbor was a ray of hope to **Elizabeth Nealy** as she entered its doors in 2010. As with most people, high school was a difficult time, and Elizabeth was no exception. During her last year of high school, she substituted using sports as an emotional escape with using drugs. After graduation, she secured an athletic scholarship to attend college. However, soon after school began, she stopped attending practices, and her grades suffered. No matter how hard she tried to persevere, she constantly felt discouraged. As a result, she decided to leave college, begin working, and sell drugs. After using drugs for some time, she realized they had begun to affect her brain functions, and made her feel paranoid and scared. Despite this, she continued to use drugs to numb what she believed about herself: she was a failure. It wasn't until she found herself sitting in a jail cell that she realized the reality of her situation; she knew she desperately needed help. Just in

time, or just in God's time, Hope Harbor came into her life, demonstrating what could be hers: a new life. After four months, her journey has allowed her the opportunity to rebuild relationships with her my family and to learn what it truly means to be loved by Jesus Christ.



When you are staring into the face of despair, Hope Harbor represents the light you desperately need. This was certainly true for **Katie Baker** in December 2009. During her adolescence, Katie faced a life with an alcoholic father, and parents who placed no boundaries upon her. Her dad recovered but she began on a path of destruction. At age fourteen she began using drugs and immediately became addicted. By the age of seventeen, she used drugs intravenously. Despite her tumultuous lifestyle, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Elizabeth Bryn. With the birth of her daughter, she saw a glimmer of hope for her life. However, SIDS devastatingly claimed her daughter's life after eight months. After her death, Katie saw no hope left in life; getting high was her sole objective. Not only was she completely dependent on drugs, but she also started stealing from her parents, who pressed charges on her. During her most recent jail

stay, she faced prison and became suicidal. At this point, she cried out to God for the first time in her life. His message to her was "hold on, there's still hope." After a short time, she found herself in the arms of Hope Harbor. Since living at Hope Harbor, Katie has restored many relationships, many of which she never thought could be repaired. Despite all the hardships Katie has faced, she rests contentedly upon God's words, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11)