

# Business Plan for My Father's House

By

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## **Opportunity**

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 25% of children ages 10 to 18 suffer from some form of anxiety disorder. As a Pastoral counselor with more than 15 years of experience, I think that number is under-reported. What is the source of anxiety? What (or Who) is the cure for anxiety? The current counseling model is what I call a reactive model. This means when someone finds themselves in crisis, they seek help. I am convinced that much pain and suffering could be alleviated by a proactive discipleship model. Many of the women and teens who seek Pastoral counseling have never been taught basic Biblical truth about identity. I am not disparaging the church, it is impossible to teach these truths on a Sunday morning. These truths must be lived, walked, breathed. Beautiful Brokenness is all about linking arms with our sweet sisters and walking with them on their painful journey. My greatest joy as a counselor is to help a sister process her pain through the lens of God's Truth, rather than try to process truth through the lens of her pain. This is the Titus model of discipleship. And it works.

## **Why Me?**

Beautiful Brokenness was formed in October of 2010, as the natural expression of His Life in me. My first books were published in 2001 but I have been passionate about sharing the heart of The Good Shepherd through horses for years before that. Jesus has prepared me for this moment my entire life. I hold a BA in English from George Mason University, and a post-graduate teaching certification from James Madison University. I am also an ordained minister who completed the Grace Ministries Advanced Training for Counselors in 2003. I completed my Level Three in Parelli Natural Horsemanship in 2011, I am a farrier, and equine body-worker. All of these skills and interests make me uniquely qualified to operate a comprehensive program that focuses on the emotional and spiritual needs of the human and the emotional and psychological needs of the horse. I am able to provide analogies that transform the thought processes of the human as they witness the horse make similar life-changing decisions.

## **Expectations**

I expect that the climate of relational starvation rampant in our society will only become worse. We are unaware of who we are, and feel disconnected from God, ourselves and others. Tragedies like school shootings are expressions of deep wounding and unhealed pain. There is only one Source of healing for a wound so deep. I do not believe it is a coincidence that 80% of girls ages 10 to 18 identify the horse as their favorite animal. Incorporating rescued horses into a hands on, multi-sensory discipleship program ignites the souls of girls, young and not so young. They are able to identify with the Heart of the Shepherd, the Rescuer, the Redeemer, and so receive His love and healing for themselves. I am convinced that My Father's House will transform discipleship ministry as we know it.

### **My Father's House will provide:**

**Retreats**—monthly, Friday through Sunday. 12 women will participate in an intensive 3 day course in identity, and foundational scriptural truth that will equip them to take thoughts captive, walk alongside others, understand forgiveness, receive Jesus as the source of Life in every moment.

**Camps**—girls 10 to 18 will have opportunities to participate in week-long to three week long camp experience.

**Clinics**—Natural trim clinics, horsemanship clinics, rider bio-mechanics, equine body-work clinics will be offered monthly. These clinics will provide BB participants with necessary practical education about horse care and riding. Members of the community will also be invited to participate.

**Cowboy Church**—a monthly outdoor community event that consists of a worship session, a short horse-themed message, and a pot-luck dinner.

**Homeschool Program**—a bi-weekly program for youth ages 10 to 20. Graduates of this program will be eligible to participate in the full-time internship program.

**Interns**—young women (ages 21+) who have demonstrated a desire to go further in understanding how to incorporate horses into ministry. The graduates of the internship program will be certified in EAD (Equine Assisted Discipleship) and will be qualified to join the staff at Beautiful Brokenness, or begin a similar ministry elsewhere.

**Classes**—everything from natural soap-making to creative writing, My Father's House will offer places for the community to share their skills and talents with interested students.

**Bible studies**—My Father's House will host weekly Bible studies open to the community. The goal of these studies is to help women understand the truth in scripture and see the relevance in everyday living.

My expertise and experience are with women and teen girls. I do believe that a similar program for boys and men will emerge from this. I trust Jesus that He will provide the right folks to come along for that.

I foresee family restoration, and a huge revival of God's people walking like who they are!

HIS!

My Father's House will be a facility consisting of:

**Phase One :**

A large guest house with 6 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Each bedroom will house 2 women, with a jack-and-jill bathroom between them. The house will include a mother-in-law suite where the hostess will reside. The guest house will be the primary location for all offices as well as the gathering place for retreats, Bible studies, camps, clinics, and homeschool programs.

A barn with at least 15 stalls for the program horses. A second barn for intern horses will be included in Phase Two of the project.

A covered arena (at least 150 x 200) for weather-proof programming.

5 small cottages where staff and interns will live.

30 acres (or more) of usable pasture land.

**Phase Two:**

All of the above plus a girls' dorm called The Barn. The Barn will contain 6 bedrooms with bunkbeds. The Barn will also contain a media room with extensive learning library, books, and DVDs.

A second barn for intern horses, and students horses.

A covered pavilion for shade and rain protection and additional space for conferences, classes, studies etc.

In my 25+ years of incorporating rescued horses into discipleship ministry, I have found 12 to be the perfect number for group activities. This number allows participants to experience intimacy, and community. Our retreats, camps, clinics and other group activities will be limited to 12 participants.

I am convinced that these activities will strengthen the fabric of community between the participants. Women will understand how to love each other, how to take thoughts captive, how to identify condemning lies, how to LIVE abundantly, whatever their circumstances.