

GROWING BRANCHES

*New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers
Milwaukee, WI • August 2015*

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HERE WE GROW... BY PLANTING THE SEED

by Brianne Kluge, Home Manager

Our founder, Pastor Robert Fleischmann, recently encouraged the staff at *New Beginnings* to host a planting day with our residents. We happily planned a Thursday night group session in which we planted beautiful flowers, tomatoes, cilantro, peppers, and basil! It was wonderful to see the entire *New Beginnings*' family participate in an activity that beautified our home AND produced vegetables that we can eat; what a blessing!

While we were planting, I reminded myself again that at *New Beginnings* we plant much more than physical seeds for flowers. Through family devotions, individual Bible Studies, church attendance, and modeling Christ-centered lives, we give our residents what they need to grow into loving, Christian parents. In the Bible, the Lord refers to the fact that His Word acts as the natural seed to the kingdom of God. In Mark 4: 26-29 God says, *"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain - first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*

Although sometimes in life it is easy to become impatient and wonder if what you are doing is enough, it is important to trust that God will take the seed and help it grow; no sense in digging up the peppers to see if they have started to sprout! At *New Beginnings* we continue to plant seeds every day; and it's a joy to watch faith grow! ♦



Pictured from the top: Shaneka; middle from front to back: Lori & Jen (two of our RAs); bottom from left to right: Shaneka, Jen, Alex (another RA) & Taleya (Support Staff Intern)

HERE WE GROW... THROUGH STRUCTURED LIVES & STRONG FAITH

by Brianne Kluge, Home Manager

Life is BUSY! I often hear the phrase, "I am busy as a bee!" at *New Beginnings*. Staff busily prepares for an upcoming devotion, the next group event, or activities for our moms; sometimes we do all of these things at once! *New Beginnings* is filled with multi-taskers; our residents, too, have a busy schedule. Our mothers work hard to establish a routine in the program, make the study of God's Word a priority every day, and care for their child.

Although the hustle and bustle feels arduous at times, we remember that God invites us to come to Him when we are tired and weak: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11:28-29)

Isn't it encouraging to know that when we are fatigued physically and mentally, God never tires and gives us strength when we need it?

I remember being "released from the nest" when I left for college. My life felt so busy, and sometimes I found it difficult to stay on track. Mom and Dad were no longer around to remind me to schedule my dentist appointment or insist that I study for my Statistics exam. In my early

college years, I found difficulty in maintaining structure to facilitate my own personal progress, but I looked to God for guidance and called on Him for help when I was exhausted from life's fast-moving pace. I constantly reminded myself in Psalm 46:1, *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."*

New Beginnings provides a unique opportunity to instruct generationally-poor individuals about the value of routine, as planning ahead and staying on track prove vital in achieving self-sufficiency. Our program takes this opportunity one step further by providing spiritual guidance along the way. At first, the structure of the *New Beginnings*' program often seems difficult for our residents; after all, many of our moms have never experienced set schedules, the requirement to arrive on time, or even the concept of accountability. Over time, however, the moms begin to appreciate the value of routines and apply structure to their own lives independently. In addition, our mothers begin to turn to God in times of exhaustion and difficulty; after all, God reminds us that we can do all this through him who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13). ♦

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? FORMER RESIDENT JUDY M.

"We are currently living in Columbia, South Carolina, and Darian loves playing in sand. He was born 3 lb 12 oz – he is now 23 lbs, a normal healthy weight and he is just now taking about 5 or 6 steps on his own when he wants to. We have our own place and are a complete family with his dad and his two siblings who are 13 and 15. His Dad and I are now coming up on our second wedding anniversary. We are grateful to all be happy and safe and comfortable. We could not possibly ask for more."



Judy with her son, Darian - THEN (2013) & NOW!

Please note the updated address for Christian Life Resources:

BOX 56
RICHFIELD, WI 53076

Our mail will no longer be forwarded from our old address as we moved over a year ago. Update your records with this address only.

MEET OUR NEWEST RESIDENT

We are thrilled to welcome our newest resident, Shaneka, into the program! Shaneka's baby girl is due in September. While we wait for her child to arrive, Shaneka begins her pursuit towards a degree in nursing. She has always dreamed of working in the healthcare field and is excited that *New Beginnings* can help her fulfill her dream. ♦



RUNNING FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

by Amanda Paltzer (Race Day Participant and Overall New Beginnings' 5K Winner)

When my family and I arrived, it was a lovely early summer morning; the day started off cool and warmed up by mid-morning. It felt so wonderful to be outside! Participants were greeted by volunteers at registration – getting their race packets, warming up, listening to the Branches Band and enjoying the pre-race/walk atmosphere.

The crowd represented several states and age groups; there were walkers, joggers, strollers, and runners. It seemed there weren't as many competitors as there were supporters of *New Beginnings*, anticipating a fun time running or walking on a beautiful day. The course was well marked and challenged us with a few good hills. The race concluded with one lap around the track, and I was thrilled to be the first to cross the finish line. The day concluded with a kids' race and the awards ceremony.



All of the volunteers and participants really enjoyed the first annual *New Beginnings* 5K Run/2-Mile Walk. It was a great event to raise awareness and support for this great ministry! ♦

“CHANGE FOR LIFE” CHANGING LIVES FOR OUR RESIDENTS

Thank you very much to all of the individuals, families, and congregations who have participated in our “Change for Life” program thus far in 2015!!! With several months left in the year, there is still plenty of time for everyone else to participate in this program that truly makes a difference in the lives of our moms and babies. Please contact Brianne at (414) 376-0595 or visit HelpNewBeginnings.com for more details about conducting this worthwhile program! We have set an ambitious goal in 2015 in the amount of \$35,000 and have raised just over \$5,000 so far! Will you help us exceed this goal?

JOIN NEW BEGINNINGS AT THE NOV. 7TH CLR CELEBRATION OF LIFE EVENT

Along with a great line-up of speakers, New Beginnings will be represented when Brianne Kluge, our Home Manager, will give an update on the ministry. Please join us for a great day of information about Christian Life Resources and New Beginnings. The event will take place at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Slinger, Wisconsin.

CLREVENTS.COM

New Beginnings appreciates your prayers to our gracious God on our behalf. We also appreciate your gifts.

Yes, I (we) would like to help *New Beginnings*: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$ _____

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Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

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Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial.

Please contact me about remembering *New Beginnings* in my will or estate plan.

I want to support this ministry on a regular basis. Send me information on becoming a *Clearly Caring Sponsor*.

I do not require an acknowledgment of this gift.

I want an **email** acknowledgment of this gift: _____ I want a letter acknowledgment.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Ice Cream Social/Open House

Saturday, August 29 from 1:30-4:30pm

- Bowling Tournament

Saturday, March 12 from 12:30-4:30pm

More info: CLREvents.com

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Amazon Gift Cards
- New Vacuum
- Swiffer Wet Jet
- Northwestern Publishing House Gift Cards

A complete list is available at:

HomeforMothers.com

Mail large packages to the home address at 9215 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53226



New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

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New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers is a Christ-centered ministry for single mothers and their children operated by Christian Life Resources. The home has been serving residents since 1993. It is supported entirely by the generous support and prayers of those who are committed to sharing Christ and reflecting His sacrificial love.

Our Team: Ms. Brianne Kluge - Home Manager
Mrs. Beth Shiels - Assistant Home Manager
Ms. Rachel Enstad - Assistant Home Manager

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