

Growing Branches



Growing Though Feeling Lost by Taleya Williamson, Operations Manager

Have you ever lost anything? Did you try for hours to find what you were looking for – only to be left feeling disappointed and frustrated? After a recent talk with one of our residents during her goal meeting, she told me that she had searched everywhere she could think of. Yet, she couldn't find her portfolio anywhere. She knew it should have been in her apartment but couldn't find it – no matter where she looked. Luckily for her, a portfolio is replaceable and not vital for her life. However, that is not always the case.

Sometimes we start to feel we are losing our faith, our passion for Christ, or some other gift from the Holy Spirit. Perhaps that's true for yourself: you might feel you're losing your capacity for patience or your willingness to serve others. So, where do we look for these losses? It can be easy to get caught up in the search. First, it is important to remember where these gifts come from: the Holy Spirit. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"* (Galatians 5:22-23a). Thankfully, we don't have to look any further than God's Word to find them. *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word about Christ"* (Romans 10:17). With faith, the fruit of the Spirit becomes obvious in our lives and in our hearts.

Sometimes our moms at *New Beginnings* feel lost too. That is why our program is founded on Christ's love. It is our hope that the Holy Spirit uses our program as a catalyst for reaching the hearts of the moms and babies we serve. Several of the mothers over the years have confessed to us that they had considered abortion before entering our program. These mothers often feel horribly guilty over ever even thinking of doing anything to harm their child. They ask themselves, "Am I a terrible person? How could I have contemplated killing my baby?" As you can imagine, this guilt leaves moms feeling insecure about themselves and their faith. As staff, we remind our residents that their identities are rooted in Christ, not in anything they've done. Because they've been clothed in Christ's righteousness and forgiven through his sacrifice, they do not have to beat themselves up over any sin they've committed in the past. Through nightly devotions, weekly church attendance, weekly individual Bible study, and more, we aim to remind our residents of Jesus' love and the grace offered in his Word.

By supporting *New Beginnings*, you support the spreading of the gospel to members of our community who desperately need it. You support mothers and babies who are no longer lost in sin – but found in Christ. ♦



Celebrating Two Years of Progress

by Shaneka

Two years here at *New Beginnings* has had its ups and downs. But nevertheless it's been fun meeting new women. As a two-year participant I have learned how to go to staff and talk to them about what's bothering me, or ask for help without feeling like I'm a bother to them. I have learned how to be an advocate for the other women living at *New Beginnings* as well.

When I look back at my life two years ago, a lot has changed within me. It's funny because I would have never thought that I would've had a 1½ year old who's really 21 (LOL) running around, talking, and saying "hi" to everyone she meets with love in her heart. If you would have asked me two years ago if I thought I would have a baby I would have told you NO! But God always has a plan for your life, and Kiarra was God's plan for mine. Being a mom is an awesome feeling that I wouldn't change for the

world. *New Beginnings* is all my little girl knows, so when it's time to leave she's going to be sad, and I know that I'm going to have to bring her to *New Beginnings* to visit from time to time.

I just want to say THANK YOU to the staff here at *New Beginnings* for always loving and caring for my child, and putting your arms around me when I need it. Thank you also for telling me when I'm wrong and praising me when I'm right. THANK YOU!

We are so proud of Shaneka for her growth at *New Beginnings* over the past two years! We have watched Kiarra grow into a beautiful little girl, and Shaneka grow as a Christian mother right alongside her. The Lord has blessed Shaneka and Kiarra beyond measure, and we know he still has extraordinary plans for them. ~

Brianne Hansen & the *New Beginnings*' staff

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Thank you to everyone who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars® to *New Beginnings*. A total of \$2,354 Choice Dollar grant funds have gone to *New Beginnings* so far this year!

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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.



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Resident Success Story

"I never even had to ask," shares former resident Jasmira, "*New Beginnings* was always there to help no matter what." Jasmira grew exponentially while at *New Beginnings*. She completed a semester at Milwaukee Area Technical College in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and is already enrolled in summer classes. During a tearful (tears of JOY) departure from *New Beginnings* after one year, Jasmira said: "Thank you to *New Beginnings*! You helped me grow so much. I learned to plan for my future, organize, become independent, and get my priorities straight." She is excited to live on her own in an apartment, continue to attend school, and get a part-time job.

Jasmira faithfully fulfilled various aspects of the program during her stay including participating in parenting classes, group classes and devotionals, and attending church. Jasmira was unable to pick one aspect of the program that helped her the MOST – "I found so many things helpful," Jasmira shared, "especially devotionals, goal meetings, therapy, and group nights." Jasmira mentioned that the best thing about *New Beginnings* is "Everything!" She also shared that her faith has grown immensely while at *New Beginnings*.

Jasmira would like to encourage other mothers to stay strong, continue to have faith, and know that all things are possible in God's eyes for those who trust in him. She plans to continue to stay in touch with *New Beginnings* and stop by when she is able.

**God's blessings on your new journey,
Jasmira & Caleb!**

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

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Free Family Fun Day! Annual Ice Cream Social Saturday, August 19 | 1:30-4:30pm



New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

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Welcome to the Family!

We would like to welcome Robyn and Gabriel to the *New Beginnings*' family! Robyn is excited to make positive changes in her life, learn more about Jesus, and have a safe place to live. Although Robyn is unsure of what the future holds for herself and her baby, we know that God has a plan for Robyn and Gabriel's new beginning.

"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)

