

# Growing Branches



## GROWING GRATITUDE

by Carmelita Aufdemberge, Executive Director

When I finish reading a chapter in the Bible, I ask myself three questions: what does this passage tell me about myself, what does this passage tell me about God, and what does this passage tell me to do? I've just finished reading through 2 Samuel and what I notice repeatedly in this book is that David took the time to speak to God and praise him; David trusted in God to get him through hard times and humbly accepted his situations. The key themes I noticed are that I am weak and by nature sinful; God is merciful, faithful, and just; and, I am called to repent, trust in God, and praise him.

As I look at the world, I think we have become far removed from humble acceptance of tribulation. I know that I have experienced hardships recently. I found myself thinking that it wasn't fair and that I did nothing to deserve it. The truth is, I did nothing not to deserve it. I forgot that I am sinful by nature, and I forgot that Jesus warned there will be tribulation and suffering. I forgot to express gratitude for the things that were right in my life.

Now, as I reflect on the previous months, I cannot help but feel gratitude. I feel gratitude

to God for keeping us safe and well. I feel gratitude to donors who have helped ensure that the women and babies at New Beginnings had what they needed during the lockdown. I feel gratitude to staff who have gone above and beyond normal duties to keep the women and babies safe and healthy. I also feel gratitude to the women at New Beginnings for being trustworthy and for continuing to work for the improvement of their lives. Every day, we at New Beginnings are called to share the Bible with the women at New Beginnings, and I am grateful that because of God's grace and your help we continue to do that yesterday, today, and tomorrow. ♦

*Then King David went in and sat before the Lord,  
and he said:*

*"Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family,  
that you have brought me this far? And as if this  
were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord,  
you have also spoken about the future of the  
house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign  
Lord, is for a mere human!"*

-2 Samuel 7:18-19

# WELCOME, SAM & MAGGIE!

Sam and Maggie are our new Relief Staff! Sam is a student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI, and Maggie just completed a Master's degree in social work. Their wedding is planned for this summer, and they are excited to start their married journey by serving at New Beginnings.



## LEAD2CHANGE RE-CAP

As you might know, we partnered with Lead2Change this year to help the women at New Beginnings become career-ready. This year's programming included parenting classes, one-on-one career coaching, and intensive workshops/classes that emphasized professionalism and career preparedness. As the Lead2Change program comes to an end this year, here are some of the highlights from the experience:

- Aaliyah & Erika have resumés, know how to give professional presentations, and understand how to dress professionally.
- At the request of Dr. Yolanda Wilson from Lead2Change and the staff at New Beginnings, Carmelita worked with the Lead2Change director to extend the parenting class for an additional eight weeks this summer.
- Erika finished her first year of college with a 3.6 grade-point average.
- Aaliyah, Erika, and Shaquone learned parenting skills.
- Zipporah participated in parenting classes this summer which was beneficial because this is her first child and she has not had any experience with caring for babies.
- Aaliyah's next step is to finish her general educational development certification when Milwaukee Area Technical College opens testing centers again. Then, she will start a welding externship or an intensive training program with Lead2Change.
- Erika's next step is to start her second year of college this fall and work with Lead2Change to find a summer job next year.
- Zipporah's next step is to start the intensive program with Lead2Change and start school in the spring semester.





# HOPE BEYOND MEASURE

Our Change for Life program was hit hard by COVID-19. It is our largest fundraiser each year and because churches had to stop gathering, many could not participate as they usually do. Our Change for Life program incorporates themes for each season, and our theme beginning in August is "Hope Beyond Measure." The program is simple to organize at your church or workplace.

However, if your church or workplace is still not gathering in person, consider an online or over-the-phone donation instead. Learn more by emailing Christina at [christinap@homeformothers.com](mailto:christinap@homeformothers.com). Please consider participating in this fun, simple, and life-changing project!



## DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?

You can support our ministry while you shop! Simply start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), rather than the regular Amazon page. Select New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers as your charity ([smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1215090](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1215090)), and a portion of your purchase will go to the mothers and babies we serve.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RESIDENT, ZIPPORAH!

Zipporah came to New Beginnings when she first learned of her pregnancy. She just graduated from high school and is working with our Case Manager, Shelli, to find her a sustainable career. Zipporah is expecting her baby girl in September!



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

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☐ I want to support this ministry on a regular basis. Send me information on becoming a monthly donor. \*Required  
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## Needs List:

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Washcloths

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Diaper Bags

Newborn Girl Clothes

Complete list: **homeformothers.com**

Mail large packages to the home:

9215 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53226

Additional ways to give material donations: **Target Baby Registry & Amazon Wish List**



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## DRIVE-THROUGH BABY SHOWER

New Beginnings is hosting a drive-through baby shower! On Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 12-3pm you can drop off donations at the home and receive a special gift from us. For ideas on what to donate, see our needs list in this newsletter or visit our website.

If you're unable to attend, you can still participate by sending items from our wish list! Our wish list and registries can also be found on our website.

To sign up to donate, please e-mail Carmelita at [carmelita@homeformothers.com](mailto:carmelita@homeformothers.com) or call (414) 376-0595.