

GROWING BRANCHES

*New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers
Milwaukee, WI • February 2016*

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HERE WE GROW... THROUGH FINDING PEACE

by Brianne Kluge, Home Manager

Have you ever worked for months to put together a 1,000 piece puzzle only to realize that you are missing a piece? How frustrating! The puzzle is simply not the same, and all of your hard work seems a little uninspiring.

As adults, we struggled with meeting the many expectations around the holidays including decorating, Christmas shopping, cooking a spectacular meal, wrapping gifts, and sending out Christmas cards. At our Christmas celebration at *New Beginnings*, Pastor Robert Fleischmann gave an inspirational devotion that highlighted the importance of finding peace at Christmas by centering our thoughts on the birth of Christ. We so easily get caught up in all the “to-dos” that we lose track of the true meaning of Christmas. We miss the most vital piece!

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:8-11 NIV)

What a peaceful scene and wonderful news! All of the entertaining, shopping, decorating, and wrapping simply will never meet our need for peace. We need to focus on our relationship with Jesus, as knowing him brings great meaning to Christmas, even when Uncle Paul burns the holiday ham. ♦



Shaneka with Kiarra and Dana with R'Mani

A big THANK YOU to those who contributed Christmas gifts to the mothers, babies, and staff at New Beginnings! We are so blessed to have your support; thanks for making Christmas more special for our mothers and their babies!

HERE WE GROW... THROUGH NEW BEGINNINGS

by Brianne Kluge, Home Manager

I can hardly believe that *New Beginnings* has been around in Milwaukee for just over a year. I feel so blessed to be a part of this amazing ministry. Over the past year, *New Beginnings* has seen mothers experience success in so many ways in this unique home-for-mothers program. We have helped a total of six mothers and seven babies learn more about their Savior. We have seen mothers grow in education, learn new parenting skills, baptize their babies, learn how to budget and save money, and make a change for the better.

When I started at *New Beginnings*, I did not fully comprehend the meaningfulness of my position; although we have experienced some challenges, we have also planted the seed for many success stories along the way. One of our first residents had no support from her family or friends. Without *New Beginnings* she would have had to deliver her baby alone. In addition, Child Protective Services (CPS) would have taken her baby due to domestic violence in her past. The staff at *New Beginnings* was able to work with CPS to ensure that her baby would not only remain in her custody, but would have a loving and supportive environment. Although that woman has since left the *New Beginnings*' program, her baby is still in her custody and the mother has a stable job.

Another resident has been in the program for six months and started pursuing a degree in nursing in January 2016. We are so proud of how far she has come.

I could go on and on about the growth we have seen at *New Beginnings*; what an amazing year! God has blessed the staff and residents at *New Beginnings* beyond all expectations, and we cannot wait to see where he takes us in the coming year. ♦



THANK YOU to all of the congregations and individuals who helped us exceed our goal this year with the Change for Life program - with your help we raised over \$38,000!!! To get involved in the 2016 program, please visit www.homeformothers.com/change-for-life-program.html, email info@homeformothers.com or call 1-800-720-6667.

THANK YOU to our *New Beginnings* volunteers who have put in hundreds of hours since we opened in the metro-Milwaukee area! Our volunteers have helped with cleaning and painting our new building when we moved last fall, organized and collected donations, worked at our fundraiser events, mentored and tutored moms, helped fill staff hours in the home, performed home and vehicle maintenance, and much more. We would not survive without the generosity and support of our volunteers.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW ASSISTANT HOME MANAGERS... CHRISTINA & KAREN

I grew up in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, in a Christian house with my parents and four sisters. We attended Pilgrim Lutheran Church as a family and I attended the grade school there. I went on to attend and graduate from Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI. In the years since high school, I have completed Early Childhood 1 & 2, Infant Toddler classes, and completed the coursework for my Associates Degree in Child Development.



Christina Pritzlaff

The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful husband (Mike) and two children (Jason and Emily). Both are teenagers now with my son in high school and my daughter in junior high. Although I do not have any formal education in children with special needs, I am learning a lot about the autism spectrum through my son who was born with special needs. We currently are members at my home church, Pilgrim Lutheran Church.

In our free time as a family, we enjoy camping and fishing. My personal interests include reading, counted cross-stitch, and playing games and watching movies with my children.

I am excited to be part of *New Beginnings* and hope that the Lord blesses my work here and continues to allow *New Beginnings* to thrive in their mission to help single mothers and their children. ♦

I possess eight years of experience as Social Director/Social Minister at a non-profit organization, helping those in crisis with financial assistance, brief supportive counseling and being a spiritual presence in their time of need. I have five-plus years of experience as a teacher and eight years as a professional missionary working in various countries including Croatia, Japan, Mexico and the United States. During my time as a Church Developer, I assisted with the establishment and development of congregations.



Karen O'Leary

My professional experience is enhanced with a Master's degree in Divinity and a Bachelor of Arts in Bible Theology. I have started adult confirmation classes at Christ the Lord Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI, and am excited to become a WELS member! It is now my privilege to serve at *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*, helping to provide a loving and supportive place for single mothers to start a new life. ♦

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 \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

☐ Please charge a one-time gift to my credit card. Name on Card _____

Card # _____ Signature _____

Type of Card ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX Expiration Date* _____ Card ID (CVV2/CID) #* _____

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UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS:

- Bowling Tournament

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

- Tiny Steps, Big Hearts 2 Mile Walk

Saturday, June 11 at 9:00am

More info: CLREvents.com

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- First Aid Kits
- Twin Extra-Long Mattress Pads
- Gift Cards (\$25): Walmart, Northwestern Publishing House, Amazon, Pick 'n Save, Target, etc.
- Carpet Cleaner

Complete list: 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:

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Ms. Karen O'Leary - Assistant Home Manager
Mrs. Christina Pritzlaff - Assistant Home Manager
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