

FEBRUARY 2019

A quarterly publication on the ministry of *New Beginnings* –
A Home for Mothers located in Milwaukee, WI

Growing Branches



Our Year in Review by Taleya Williamson, Operations Manager

2018 was a year of growth and blessings for our *New Beginnings* family. Our moms have shown an incredible amount of determination, perseverance, and faith. We have so many successes to be thankful for and we'd love to share some of them with you!

Last spring, Letisha graduated from *New Beginnings* and got married at St. Marcus Lutheran Church in Milwaukee! She and her husband were able to afford a down payment on an apartment together with the money she saved while at *New Beginnings*. Her time here provided her with all of the skills and tools she needed to start her new, self-sufficient life. "New Beginnings was a wonderful place for my child to grow and for me to develop as a better mother. I'm just very thankful that they are here." - Letisha, Program Graduate

One of the greatest things we get to do at *New Beginnings* is share the truth of salvation and witness the spiritual growth of so many moms and babies. In the last year alone, three babies from *New Beginnings* were baptized at Fairview Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. We've also had eight moms participate in Bible studies and devotions, providing them with life-saving knowledge of their Savior.

Our moms have also made significant progress in education! In 2018, three of our moms completed college courses, and another made great strides toward pursuing her GED. Two of our moms even completed additional parenting and financial literacy classes outside of *New Beginnings*. All of our residents were able to learn necessary parenting and life skills while living in a safe, stable, Christ-centered environment.

Our program has grown too! We've partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI, (known as St. John's on the Hillside) to hold two "Baby Pantries" so we can reach more single moms in Milwaukee. Each Baby Pantry includes a devotion as a way to share God's Word with all of these moms and their children. In September, we hosted our first annual Wine & Dine event which was a huge success! We're looking forward to our next one on September 19.

All of these accomplishments have been made possible because of your support. Thanks to your generosity, four healthy baby boys were born in 2018, while their moms were living at *New Beginnings*. We were able to make a difference that will last generations in so many lives! Thank you for making that possible by supporting our ministry! ♦



Letters from Home: Meet Allesundrea

I came to the program when I was still pregnant and since then I have had my baby. He is 5 months now he came out 7 pounds and 19 inches. I came to *New Beginnings* with no baby clothes or toys or anything. Since then my son has more clothes than he has time to wear. While at *New Beginnings* I started school again and have been saving money. *New Beginnings* has given me back the confidence to finish school and to even aim higher. They have the perfect staff and resident supervisors that make living here so much more than just a program. I have had a very hard life and because of that I ended up having a couple mental health issues that sometimes I can't control. The way that they have put up with my down time is more than amazing, it is truly love. They do so much more behind the scenes that they don't even talk about. Baby supplies, personal products, cleaning products and school supplies. About any bump in the road to getting your education they will help you figure it out! All my life I have pushed people away when things seem too perfect or from thoughts that I don't deserve to be loved. There was only one person in my life who never gave up on me and loved me no matter what. Now I can say there are 4 people who when I tried to push them away still loved me no matter how bad my day was going. Brianne, Taleya, Christina and Clara are those people. Even a board of people I never met. They have been like family to me and my son. I love them and I know they love me and my son. I will never forget this place or what they have done and are doing for me! These women are my family. Even the business aspect of it is amazing because it's their business to make sure we succeed! *New Beginnings* is not just a home for mothers; it is family, a friend, love, and inspiration.

Allesundrea + Robert

Best Wishes from Former Case Manager, Clara Drinkwine

To My *New Beginnings* Family and Friends,

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with so many wonderful people. My time as a Case Manager has been a humbling learning experience. The struggles our moms have faced and continue to conquer shows the true grace God has bestowed upon us. I have felt comforted by the knowledge that they have found a home with a community that loves them and comforts them daily. I am thankful that they have found an environment that reminds them that their Lord and Savior is there to guide them through their best of days and worst of days. I have watched as babies have been baptized, and single moms have gotten a chance at school and have had opportunities to give their children a strong foundation in a Christian home. I want to give a special thanks to all those who work hard to give our moms and babies a chance at a new life and a brighter future. Though I am leaving my current position, I will continue to be a part of this organization as it continues to build homes and families. I look forward to seeing the growth of our organization and how many more lives we can touch.

Sincerely,
Clara Drinkwine, Former Case Manager

Meet Carmelita – Our New Case Manager

Carmelita has joined our *New Beginnings*' staff and is taking over the position of Case Manager. She is doing a wonderful job, and we are so blessed to have her here with us. Here is more from Carmelita:



I grew up in Illinois and moved to Oak Creek in the summer of 2017. I graduated from Eureka College with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2014.

After college, I worked as a daycare teacher as I earned my first graduate degree, a Master's in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, which I received in 2017.

As I work with New Beginnings, I also work as a dialysis technician in Oak Creek. I am pursuing a second Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and a Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology.

I just got married in November of 2017 to my wonderful husband, Alex. We attend Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Allis, WI, which is where I found out about this position. I am so blessed to work with New Beginnings, and I love it already. I am so excited to see how God continues to work through people to share the Gospel. ♦

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- Gift Cards – Target, Walmart, Amazon, Pick 'n Save
- Laundry Detergent
 - Dryer Sheets
 - Bathroom Tissue
- Paper Towels
- Dish Soap
- Printer Paper
- Baby Wipes

Complete list: **homeformothers.com**

Mail large packages to the home address: 9215 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53226

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

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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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Our Gift of Love

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A Home for Mothers

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A Blessed Christmas by Taleya Williamson, Operations Manager

The Christmas season is one of my favorite times of the year – great food, family traditions, and the beautiful celebration of our Savior's birth. At *New Beginnings*, we celebrate by joining together for Christmas dinner. It's a time for residents, staff, board members, and volunteers to enjoy each other's company and bond over the message of Jesus. We have so much fun every year, and this one was no exception!

None of this would have been possible without Anita, Amber, and St. John's Lutheran Church on the Hillside. They worked so hard to host this event and put everything together. We have truly been blessed by their generosity and partnership.

