

NOVEMBER 2018

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

# Growing Branches



## Continue Growing: Thanking God for His Rich and Constant Blessings

by Brianne Hansen, Executive Director

*"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things"* (Psalm 107: 8-9).

It's fall, which means pumpkin-flavored EVERYTHING! I hear so many people rave about the pumpkin spice lattes around this time of year, and I have never quite understood the draw. These lattes are only offered in the fall, which is most likely why everyone gets so excited about them. If you recall, McDonald's breakfast used to be all the rage when it was only offered in the mornings; however, now that your egg, bacon, and cheese bagel is available all day long, the thought of breakfast at noon isn't as appealing. The lesson in all of this is that we tend to take things for granted that are available to us all the time – things like God's blessings.

One of the biggest temptations for maturing Christians is the threat of becoming accustomed to the Lord's blessings. We are so blessed with safe homes, warm beds, supportive family, and McDonald's breakfast all day long that we begin to take these things for granted. The Israelites faced this same temptation when they began to grow tired of the manna the Lord provided them each morning.

Even though God rained down miracle nourishment on his people, they complained and said, *"If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost...But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"* (Numbers 11: 4-6). They lost sight of the blessing.

When I began my work at *New Beginnings*, I fell prey to this temptation. Rather than thanking the Lord for my warm bed and supportive family, I complained when things weren't going exactly right. The mothers at *New Beginnings* opened my eyes to the things we tend to take for granted. Many did not grow up with a supportive family, or a warm bed, which is why the thought of living at *New Beginnings* is a constant blessing not to be taken for granted. This serves as an excellent reminder for me and others that we see the beauty in God's constant blessings, and thank him for them. I know the mothers here thank God daily for the blessings he provides them at *New Beginnings* through you. And I thank him, too, for the opportunity to serve alongside you to provide growth, healing, and hope for moms and their babies. Wishing everyone a Thanksgiving full of blessings, even if they are blessings that are offered all day long! ♦

## A Newly-Baptized Child of God

Baby George, born on July 12, was baptized by Pastor Aaron Robinson in August at Fairview Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI. What a blessing! Thank you for making this possible. Without you, Julie and George might not have known the power and blessing that God gives us through Holy Baptism.



## Letter from a Former Resident

"I was a mother at *New Beginnings* when it was in Colorado back in 2010. Recently, I had the pleasure of getting together with three of the other moms that I went there with. We all try to get together when we can. The last time I saw them all was back in 2015. We call it a *New Beginnings* reunion. I treasure the things that I learned at *New Beginnings* and the relationships I built. It really gave myself and my family a head start to the life we lead now. I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today without *New Beginnings*. I was really sad to see it leave Colorado, but I'm so glad to see its doors are still open for mothers in Wisconsin." -Kelsey & Adam

# NEW BEGINNINGS IS HIRING!

## *Paid, Part-time Case Manager Position*

Email Brianne Hansen at [brianneh@homeformothers.com](mailto:brianneh@homeformothers.com) for more details regarding this unique job opportunity!



# Change for Life

Have you considered helping the moms and babies at *New Beginnings* through our Change for Life program? Here is what Sue Bolha from David's Star in Jackson, WI has to say about the project:

"David's Star Lutheran Church, in Jackson, WI has been participating in the Change for Life Program for a number of years, and we find it an easy way to support a wonderful ministry! As our congregation's Parish Nurse, I coordinate this project with our Elders' blessing, but anyone with a desire to serve can do this! I always try to mention *New Beginnings* in the bulletin or newsletter before we hand out the baby bottles so that people understand why we want to support the ministry. Then, each Mother's Day the baby bottles are made available after services along with a card for people to take home and read. *New Beginnings* provides the cards, making this nice and easy! In our early years, we asked the Youth Group to help hand out the bottles, or our nurses volunteered to hand them out. But now people are so familiar with the program that they pick up their own! I leave a supply of bottles in an antique porcelain baby bath basin on a table near the church door to create interest and remind those who haven't picked one up yet! Then on Father's Day, we begin to gather the bottles filled with loose change, cash or even a check! It usually takes a few weeks to gather in the bottles, but that's fine with us! I enlist the help of another to take the change to the bank, and then we store the bottles to be used the next year! Call the staff at *New Beginnings*, as they are happy to send you the bottles needed. Partner with them as they provide a young Mom and her baby a new beginning!"

-Sue Bolha



## Needs List:

- Gift Cards: \$25 Walmart, Amazon, Target, Pick 'n Save, etc.
  - Toilet Paper
  - Paper Towel
- Pack n Play Sheets for Boys
- No-Scratch Mitts for Boys
  - Swaddlers for Boys
- Baby Care Basics Sets & Thermometers
- Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Feminine Products

Complete list: [homeformothers.com](http://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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**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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WE PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY: *New Beginnings* respects your privacy and will not give away or sell your contact information. *New Beginnings* is a registered 501(c)3 agency under the U.S. tax code. All donations to the ministry of *New Beginnings* are fully tax deductible (EIN: 84-1215090).

Where to find the Card ID #? MC/Visa/Discover: 3-digit code on back; AMEX: 4-digit code on front.

I want to support this ministry on a regular basis. Send me information on becoming a monthly donor. \*Required  
(Or you can visit **homeformothers.com** to donate online today!)

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

I want to receive email updates on the ministry. **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I do not require an acknowledgment of this gift.

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

## Thanks Aplenty!

Did you know you can participate in Change for Life all year round? Our current theme is called **THANKS APLENTY!** Please contact us to participate at (414) 376-0595 or [christinap@homeformothers.com](mailto:christinap@homeformothers.com).



**New Beginnings**

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

**A Home for Mothers**

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## THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH OUR GOAL!

We met our goal! Starting late last year, *New Beginnings* set a goal to raise \$12,000 for our education fund so that we could help our mothers go back to school. We have officially met our goal, and we are so thankful! Siebert Lutheran Foundation will match the funds that we raised, so that \$12,000 will go twice as far!

To date, we have used the money in our education fund to help Shawna, Julie, and LaCresha attend college. We have paid for books and tuition, and we were able to give Shawna a laptop to use for her school work. LaCresha is currently taking math and English courses, while Julie is taking a Contemporary American Society class, English Usage and Writing course, Basic Algebra, and a course in the Psychology of Human Relations for a total of 16 credits! Shawna finished her first semester with all A's, and continues to pursue classes towards a degree in Accounting. Each mom is so thankful for the opportunity to earn a degree without incurring debt. **THANK YOU** for making this possible!



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