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# GROWING BRANCHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NEW  
BEGINNINGS – A HOME FOR MOTHERS



## The Life-Changing Structure of New Beginnings

Written by Rev. Robert Fleischmann

New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers came from a desire to provide a single mother the opportunity to live with the decision to keep and raise her child. Shortly after opening our doors in October of 1993, we found a special niche in serving the generationally poor single mother.

### Understanding Generational Poverty

People are either born into poverty, or it comes about somewhat unexpectedly. Let's look at the latter first.

Poverty that comes about unexpectedly is often referred to as "circumstantial poverty." It means a person grows up in a self-sustaining home where jobs bring in sufficient money and thus avoids the need for financial

assistance. Circumstantial poverty occurs when a circumstance changes. One loses a job, faces unexpectedly burdensome bills, or sustains significant property loss in an unforeseen circumstance which forces the need for help.

The circumstantially poor find the situation new and unfamiliar. Their lives as they'd known it with a car, a home, washer and dryer, and food on the table are suddenly gone – it plunges a person into disarray and panic.

In contrast, the generationally poor have always known poverty. They develop survival skills that include leveraging charity to help them get by. They know how to get along without a car and sometimes without a home. They count on food stamps, food pantries, and

the charity of various organizations to take care of them and their family members. The important thing to remember is that it is both a lifestyle and a means of survival for the generationally poor. It's a difficult cycle to break.

The generationally poor live in poverty, just as their parents and grandparents did. They could not find the path to become self-sustaining members of society; survival meant living off the charity of others. Single motherhood exacerbated the situation.

Since 1993 New Beginnings has learned a lot. We had to rid ourselves of many false presumptions. We had to learn some hard lessons. And learn we did!

Today, New Beginnings' success is transparent and proven with a program requiring careful thought, love, and patience. We refer to our life-changing structure at New Beginnings as, "The Six Pillars." The pillars are equally valuable; they are presented here in logical order, not reflecting any priority.



### **Pillar One: Vocational**

To graduate from New Beginnings as a self-sustaining member of society requires employment in a career that pays a self-sustaining wage. This means a mother's career goal involves a sufficient salary to help her care for herself and her child without relying on the charity of the state or others. We help her seek out and pursue a career that interests her, for which she has some acumen, and that which is found in a solid job market.



### **Pillar Two: Educational**

The vocational goal is achieved through education. Because every mother is different, the educational component is specially customized for each mother. Some mothers need to complete high school. Some career choices require college, while others require technical school training. Our goal is to focus on the career choice and then structure an educational track in order for the mother to reach her goal. That structure can also include tutors and mentors.



### **Pillar Three: Parental**

There is a lot to maternal instinct. Yet, in these changing times, there are also resources and concerns that a young mother needs to know. This is complicated by the fact that not every mother had a good role model during her childhood. We take time to help a mother learn the importance of caring for a child by what she does and the way she appears in the learning eyes of her child. She is encouraged to learn how best to care for her child and to never forget that innocent eyes learn from her example in her words and actions.





## Pillar Four: Spiritual

New Beginnings is a Christian ministry. It is a Christ-centered home. We are moved by Christ's love to care for others, which is why New Beginnings began in the first place. We teach the mothers about that love. We place their lives within an eternal context secured for them by Jesus. Then, we help them live a Christlike life in their dealings with family, with the staff and residents at New Beginnings, and in their daily encounters with all others.



## Pillar Five: Social

Races, cultures, and classes all have certain norms by which they communicate and interact. We strongly encourage the mothers to embrace the culture of their upbringing as they so desire. We teach them, however, that in different settings a person must interact differently. We teach the mothers the social nuances of various social settings ranging from meeting new people, applying for a job, and dealing with difficult people.



## Pillar Six: Personal

Many challenges occur for the generationally poor. The plight of single mothers is that they often weren't given the opportunity to learn important personal care issues. We spend time working with the mothers to help them learn financial management, good hygiene, responsible eating habits, and cleanliness for themselves and their baby, and in their living spaces. We address their spiritual needs under the spiritual pillar, but we also address their mental needs. Some of the mothers at New Beginnings have had horrible experiences that still haunt them. We network with outside professional counseling agencies to help them face these issues.

The Pillars were honed after nearly 30 years of experience. We learned that a lifetime of generational poverty requires about five years at New Beginnings to begin turning that life around. When completed, a mother and her baby (now a toddler) can leave the program with truly a new beginning on life.



## Wine & Dine

• TERRACE 167 // 3210 HWY. 167, RICHFIELD, WI •

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 10

6-8PM

Join us for an evening of fine wine, appetizers, and a silent auction benefiting the mothers and children at New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers.

MORE INFO COMING SOON!  
[HOMEFORMOTHERS.COM](http://HOMEFORMOTHERS.COM)





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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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