



# GROWING BRANCHES

*New Beginnings • Milwaukee, WI  
May 2016 • Celebration of Love Edition*

## HERE WE GROW... THROUGH FIERCE, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

*by Brianne Kluge, Home Manager*

*"What's Next?"* These words have been part of my everyday vocabulary since I was about four years old. My mother and I recently reminisced over home videos and even as a 4-year-old, I was ready to open the next Christmas present before fully unwrapping the one in front of me. As my wedding approaches and I contemplate marrying the love of my life, unsurprisingly I have begun to anticipate what's next. I know my love for my spouse will grow every day, but in anticipation for the future I wonder what our love for a child might feel like.

I am surrounded by mothers with new babies every day at *New Beginnings*, and I observe how each woman grows into her new role. I witness the love she feels for her child, and I can only imagine the love felt for someone who was knit together within a mother's womb. A distinctive, almost instantaneous, change occurs when her baby is born; she begins to focus wholeheartedly on bettering herself, loyally protects her child, and becomes increasingly committed to Christ.

My Assistant Manager, Beth Shiels, recently wrote an article entitled, "A Fierce Kind of Love," for our *New Beginnings*' blog. She described her love for her children as fierce and wrote, "I loved that little girl fiercely and I felt like I was giving my whole heart to a child for the first time, when really it was the third

time a child stole my heart. If anything, my love was not diminished for my third baby because I had two already, but it was intensified by the love that I knew would keep growing."

Despite our earthly feelings of love and their potential to grow exponentially, our most profound feelings of love pale in comparison with God's love for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV) says, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* How amazing! Our Father loved us so much that he gave us the gift of eternal life despite our sins?! Can you imagine how fierce Christ's love for us feels? Understanding the depth of God's unfailing love proves difficult, but we are able to demonstrate love because Christ first loved us. I thank God for loving me unconditionally and providing all of us the opportunity to emulate his fierce, unconditional love to others.

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b-19 NIV) ♦*

Check out the *New Beginnings*' blog at  
[homeformothers.com/blog](http://homeformothers.com/blog)

# HERE WE GROW... THROUGH CELEBRATIONS OF LOVE

by Brianne Kluge, Home Manager

*New Beginnings* aims to instill values and traditions through educating our residents on the significance of God's love. This is done by providing a supportive environment and forming interpersonal relationships among the mothers and staff. At times, conflicts arise, and we remind our residents about what God says about loving others. As the Lord says in 1 Corinthians 16:14, "Do everything in love."

Around Valentine's Day, we held a group session designed to enhance team building, creativity and compassion. Earlier in the day, we received a package from a group of children at Christ Lutheran School in Eagle River, Wisconsin, that contained handmade Valentine's Day cards for the mothers. Our hearts were filled with joy, as we gave each card to the mothers at *New Beginnings*. The residents were blown away by the thoughtfulness and love, and were excited to make cards to send back to the children at the school.

During group night, our Assistant Manager, Beth, led a creative heart-making project in which everyone decorated a cutout heart with festive tissue paper. We all had so much fun! We also picked names for our "Random Acts of Kindness" initiative. Each staff member and resident chose three names and three "acts of kindness," which included things like making a homemade gift, giving a person a compliment, doing a chore for someone, writing someone a letter, and more. We called February "Random Acts of Kindness Month," and everyone really enjoyed doing nice things for each other! Some of our residents and staff members exceeded expectations by doing more than three acts of compassion; how amazing! Not only was "Random Acts of Kindness Month" a great team building activity, we also had the opportunity to spread God's compassion to others. ♦

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*  
(Hebrews 10:24-35 NIV)



Photos from top to bottom: Meosha, Shaneka, Cait, Brianne, Rachel (Intern), Dominique & Laura; Shaneka & Cait; Valentine's from Christ Lutheran School in Eagle River, WI

## TINY STEPS, BIG HEARTS 2 Mile Walk



Saturday, June 11 • 8-11 am  
Hart Park • Wauwatosa, WI



**FREE EVENT!!!** Featuring a photo-booth, face painting, balloon animals, coloring & more for the kids!

**REGISTER NOW!** [fundly.com/2-mile-walk-tiny-steps-big-hearts](http://fundly.com/2-mile-walk-tiny-steps-big-hearts)

Every walker who raises \$20 and up gets an event t-shirt; raise more for your chance to win prizes!

## HE IS RISEN! He is risen indeed!

*New Beginnings* celebrated Christ's love with an Easter dinner which included turkey, cheesy potatoes, corn bread, broccoli salad, cabbage, green salad, jello, dessert, and more! Everyone enjoyed the meal, and we had a wonderful devotion led by our Assistant Manager, Beth. We also enjoyed an Easter egg hunt!



Photos from left to right: Dominique holding up her Easter basket! Our Resident Assistants, Cait and Laura, made a delicious Oreo ice cream dessert! Our Resident Support Intern, Leah, holding up the Easter eggs she found.

## LETTERS FROM HOME

Before I moved to *New Beginnings*, I was basically living from house to house. I was worried that when I had my baby boy I was not going to have a place to live. My mind was in the wrong place. I was homeless and had no idea what to do. I used to cry every night before going to bed and wondered why this was happening to me. I would talk to God and ask him to help me.

My nurse told me about *New Beginnings* and I decided to check it out. I have lived at *New Beginnings* since January 19, 2016. It was rough for me in the beginning, but it's a place of hope and a place to help me out. *New Beginnings* helps me and other mothers get back on their feet, continue education, and take care of responsibilities. I thank all of the staff and Resident Assistants, and also the donors who donate things out of the kindness of their heart. I am working on getting things done one by one, which takes a lot of patience. I will get through this rough time and my struggles. I used to think that I was never going to get anything done by being where I used to live. *New Beginnings* is helping me come out of this. Thanks to everybody for your help! ♦

Dominique  
+  
D'Amani



Dominique holding her cake at her baby shower

*New Beginnings* recently hosted a baby shower for Dominique who is due any day now! We would like to thank Jill Parbs for helping to sponsor her baby shower. We all had a wonderful time playing games, eating delicious cake, and opening gifts!



Back Row: Meosha, Shaneka and Kiarra, Jaymi (Dominique's visiting nurse), Rachel (our Practicum student), Leah (our Resident Support Intern), Brianne, Dominique's family and friends. Front Row: Cait and Laura (RAs), Dominique, and more family.

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*Required

☐ Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial.

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

☐ I want to support this ministry on a regular basis. Send me information on becoming a *Clearly Caring Sponsor*.

☐ I do not require an acknowledgment of this gift.

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

## UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS:

- Tiny Steps, Big Hearts 2 Mile Walk  
Saturday, June 11 at 8:00-11:00am  
More info: [CLREvents.com](http://CLREvents.com)

## MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Gift Cards – Used for needs & gifts for the mothers & miscellaneous items for the home (Walmart, Target, Amazon, Pick N Save)
  - Extra Long Mattress Pads
  - 10-Foot Runner for Hallway
  - Blenders – 2 Needed
  - New Infant Car Seats

Complete list: [homeformothers.com](http://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

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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:

Ms. Brianne Kluge - Home Manager  
Ms. Karen O'Leary - Assistant Home Manager  
Mrs. Christina Pritzlaff - Assistant Home Manager  
Mrs. Beth Shiels - Assistant Home Manager

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### Social Media:

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[instagram: newbeginnings\\_homeformothers](https://instagram.com/newbeginnings_homeformothers)

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