

MAY 2019

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

Growing Branches



Loving Fiercely by Brianne Hansen, Executive Director

I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on December 8, 2018. As I held our daughter, Ayla, in my arms, I felt a love that I had never experienced before – a mother's love – fierce and unconditional. Despite the fact that she made me very sick in the first trimester and extremely uncomfortable in the third, there was no doubt, even when she was in the womb, I loved her fiercely. I also know that if she is anything like me, there will be times she will test my patience, defy me, break rules, and throw temper tantrums (sorry, Mom and Dad), but I know that I will love her unconditionally.

This fierce parent-child love that God designed gives us a glimpse of God's character when he says, *"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him"* (Psalm 103:13). After all, we know God as "Father," which sums up his love for us in a single word. And yet, despite my love for Ayla extending further and deeper than I could have imagined love could ever go, it still pales in comparison with God's love. Each time I look into my daughter's blue eyes, I grasp the extent and capacity of God's love for his children in a way that I hadn't quite reached before.

Truthfully, I am amazed by God's love for his children in giving up his one and only Son – not only for the

sins of those closest to him, but for the sins of the whole world. The whole world! He sacrificed his Son for us despite our dependence on God for our every breath, our rebellion against him on a daily basis, our continuous failure to be kind to others, and our lack of appreciation for the blessings God gives us. He sent his Son to suffer and die – for us, for you, for me, for the whole world.

God understands our love for our earthly children, because he first loved us, yet he also says, *"Anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me"* (Matthew 10:37). At first glance, it seems that God is telling us not to love our children, but we know that is not the case because God designed our parental love. What he commands is that we love him more than our children. We are supposed to love as God loves us. Just as we fall short of God's glory, we fall short of God's command to love. But we can pray for help, because it is through God's love that we are able to love others fiercely. *"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32). Let us be a reflection of God's love and the gifts he has given us by loving others fiercely – and by loving God even more. ♦

Seja & Lacresha's Certificates of Accomplishment (Far Left), Ayla, Executive Director's daughter (Middle), George, Julie's son (Right).



Preparing for Motherhood at *New Beginnings*

New Beginnings has prepared me for motherhood by teaching me about the Word of God so that I can teach my child about the Word. *New Beginnings* also prepared me to be independent. For example, I cook and clean by myself and before I depended on my mother. This helped prepare me to be a mother because now I have the skills that I can apply with my child. The program also helped me prepare for motherhood by having me sign up for parenting classes.

-Seja

New Beginnings taught me a lot so far! They taught me how to keep God in my life and are teaching me how to become a better mom and also how to start a new life as a single mother. *New Beginnings* is comfortable, and I feel less stressed about getting what I need for myself and my baby. They provide a lot of things here. I also feel safe here because I am around people who are caring, really sweet, and wonderful. Also, it's a great environment for new mothers because you live with the nicest mothers ever, and it's like you knew these people for a long time. It feels like a normal home that is yours, but with a wonderful roommate and people around. This was the best decision for me, and I'm happy I put all the work in that I had to so that I could have a great and stable place to stay for me and my baby. My baby will grow up to have a good life, and that is how *New Beginnings* is preparing me for motherhood.

-Shamya



WELCOME AIDEN!

Shamyia gave birth to baby Aiden on March 26 at 1:04am. He weighed 5 lbs. 11oz. and was 19 inches long! He and Shamyia are doing well!

Needs List:

- Heavy Duty Office Chair
- Heavy Duty Mat for Office Chair
 - Baby Formula
- Gift Cards (Amazon, Target, Walmart)

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



Upcoming Events

TASTE & TOUR

Once a month from 12:00pm-1:00pm
NEXT DATES: June 20 & July 25

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & FAMILY FUN EVENT

Saturday, August 17, from 1:30-4:30pm

WINE & DINE

Thursday, September 12,
from 6:00-8:00pm

To register for these events, or learn more, please visit homeformothers.com/events. We hope to see you at our annual Ice Cream Social, and at our second annual Wine & Dine to benefit New Beginnings!



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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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Baby Pantry Update

A big thank you to St. John's on the Hillside Church in Milwaukee for helping us host our third baby pantry! We served just under 15 mothers and a few single fathers by telling them about the love of Jesus and giving them items that they need for their babies. We are excited to continue to meet the spiritual and physical needs of mothers in the greater community!



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