

Growing Branches



Update from *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*

Denver, Colorado

August 2004

More Than Just Water

By Rev. Doug Bode

Ethan cried. Jonah smiled. Austin wiped away the water. Alicia impassively looked on. But whatever their reaction to the drops of water on their foreheads, all four of them were made children of God and heirs of eternal life in heaven through the washing of Holy Baptism on Palm Sunday earlier this year.

What a triumph God the Holy Spirit works in human hearts! What trophies of grace they became through the means of grace by the Holy Spirit! What a faith-working, soul-saving sacrament was bestowed on these young children by our loving God!

These children were not baptized just weeks after their birth. In one case it was waiting for the baby's father to attend from almost a thousand miles away. In the other cases it was waiting for the Spirit to work through continued reminders and scriptural witness of the importance and power of the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

There were obstacles the Spirit had to overcome. The mothers needed to learn that baptism is actually God's gracious gift to us, not simply a good work we perform. Another hurdle was realizing the absolute need for baptism since babies are conceived and born in original sin.

Many of the girls who come to *New Beginnings* are unchurched. They have had little proper instruction and appreciation for baptism. Original sin, the teaching that by nature we were dead in sin, and the fact we can do nothing good on our own, are hard words to hear and accept. To those who have had some exposure to "religion," they presume to think we can simply decide to accept Jesus into our hearts and lives.

It often takes time (lots of it) and patience (in abundant measure) to wait for the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to see the truth of God's Word and recognize the importance of Holy Baptism in starting a child out on the right spiritual path in life. For these young mothers Baptism is a good *start*, certainly not the end of that spiritual pilgrimage through life.



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Palm Sunday, April 4th, 2004, not only gave the babies at *New Beginnings* a new start in Baptism, but it also gave the house parents a renewed appreciation for the Lord's work here and a revitalized awareness of the Holy Spirit's working through the Word in His own time. As always, *New Beginnings* exists primarily for the purpose of sharing Jesus with souls who are in desperate need of His help to get through life and into the right side of eternity.

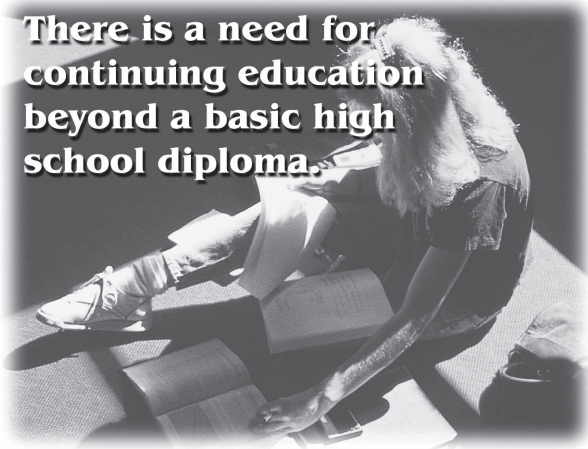




How Can I Get In?

“How can I get into your program?” It is a question that is asked by many prospective residents for *New Beginnings*. Many assume they can just “sign up” onto our waiting list, and whenever an apartment opens up for them, they can immediately move in. The admissions process is a bit more involved.

There is a need for continuing education beyond a basic high school diploma.



The *New Beginnings* staff starts out with a personal interview. The ladies are asked general information questions, then we get into more personal questions - some of which reveal their sometimes jaded past. Their religious background is discussed as well. We also note their educational track record and their work experience, all the while trying to impress upon them the need for a continuing education beyond a basic high school diploma or GED.

We try to dig into their life goals, their plans for the future, and their plans for the coming year and the years to follow. As the saying goes, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

A police record, a history of drug use, or other undesirable background does not necessarily disqualify an applicant

from consideration for residence at *New Beginnings*. What does disqualify them is an arrogant air that does not show a desire to start anew at *New Beginnings*.

Although the *New Beginnings* staff conducts the interviews (or a local WELS/ELS pastor does it for us when a young woman from another part of the country expresses an interest incoming to *New Beginnings*) the admissions committee makes the final decision on the acceptance of an applicant to *New Beginnings*.

These interviews have been eye-openers. We have to be fairly certain a new resident will fit in with the “family” concept at *New Beginnings* and be accepting of the whole program. A resident must in turn be convinced that she needs a fresh start in life along with the time and opportunity to make a “new beginning” for herself and her young family.

***New Beginnings* offers a joyous and Christian change of life.**



The admissions process, though involved, helps the *New Beginnings* staff as well as the current residents and their children to welcome another family into this unique ministry that offers a joyous and Christian change of life.



New Beginnings

A Home For Mothers



Rev. Doug and Charlene Bode, House Parents

What Do We Need?

Ugh!
Change!

We frequently receive inquiries and questions about what we need and what can we use at *New Beginnings*.

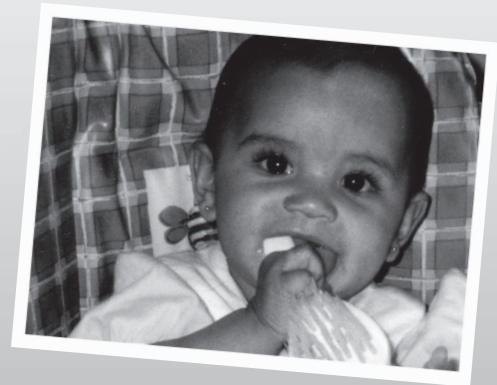
Our needs list is lengthy, and it also changes frequently. Individuals or groups may send desired items to *New Beginnings* to fill a certain necessity at a particular time.

Christian Life Resources, the parent organization of *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*, maintains a website for *New Beginnings*. Besides general information on *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*, included on the website is a *New Beginnings Needs List* that is updated periodically as some needs are met and others arise. You are invited to check that list at www.homeformothers.com. Once you're into the site, just click on the "How Can I Help?" button.



Some individuals or organizations have chosen to send gift certificates to *New Beginnings* instead of sending items. We have appreciated that approach, because not only does it avoid the shipping or mailing costs, it also helps us get the sizes and quantities of items we need the most. There is almost every store imaginable within a convenient drive of *New Beginnings*, but stores for which we have received gift certificates include, Wal-Mart/ Sam's Club and Target. Other general shopping we may do at K-Mart or J.C. Penney's. For grocery shopping, we have Safeway, Albertson's, Super Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, and King Soopers as the major grocery stores.

To explain our needs list, *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers* is actually a 12-unit apartment building. While we maintain six units for mothers (and a seventh for emergency situations), the building also contains two units for general residents' use (one for our common meal together each day and one for general recreation/relaxing/computer use), and one unit each for house parents and relief person(s). One unit we use for storage. Each one-bedroom apartment is completely furnished, down to sheets and pillowcases, towels and washcloths, etc. We are constantly trying to upgrade the furnishings, furniture, appliances, etc. in each apartment.



We are thankful to have been able to put a new roof on the building late last year (because the old roof was leaking), and that there was one major capital improvement. Another glaring need is for replacement windows in all of the apartments. The existing windows are all single-pane windows that are drafty, fit poorly, and certainly are not energy-efficient. In many cases the screens are in sad shape, too. We have received a bid of just under \$20,000 for this capital project.

As residents come and go, so also our needs list fluctuates from time to time. The need that doesn't change is for Christian hearts like you to reflect the love of Jesus in sharing some of their gifts and resources with people and projects in need of help. Thanks for whatever the Lord moves you to do to help!



learn more at www.homeformothers.com



New Beginnings

A Home For Mothers

Affiliated with Christian Life Resources, Inc.
2949 N. Mayfair Rd., Suite 309
Milwaukee, WI 53222-4304

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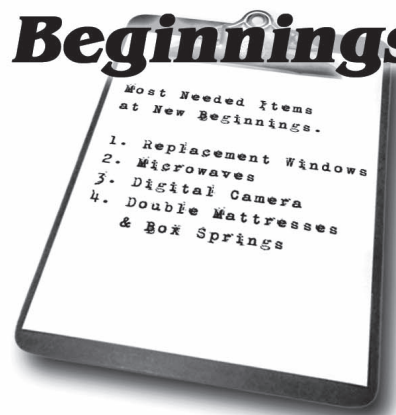
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Most Needed Items at *New Beginnings*



1. Replacement Windows
2. Microwaves
3. Digital Camera
4. Double Mattresses and Box Springs



*Most Needed Items
at New Beginnings.*

1. Replacement Windows
2. Microwaves
3. Digital Camera
4. Double Mattresses
& Box Springs

***Please call if you are interested in donating any of these much needed items.
Thank you!***

New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers is a Christ-centered home for single mothers and is affiliated with Christian Life Resources, Inc. 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.

Staff: Rev. Douglas Bode - Spiritual Director
Mrs. Charlene Bode - Home Manager

Telephone: 1-303-364-0890
1-800-720-MOMS

Fax: 1-303-364-0891

E-mail: nbdenver@comcast.net

Website: www.HomeforMothers.com

New Beginnings appreciates your prayers to our gracious God on our behalf. We also appreciate your gifts. Would you consider helping us out?

Yes, I (we) would like to make a contribution to help ***New Beginnings***:

\$100 \$50 \$25 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. **Phone:** _____

I would like to support this ministry on a regular basis. Please send me information on becoming a Clearly Caring Sponsor.

Mail to: ***New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers***
P.O. Box 423
Aurora, CO 80040