



# Growing Branches

Update from  
New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers  
Denver, Colorado

## Constant Confidence

By Margo Birkholz

*"I lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth." – Psalm 121:1-2*

At New Beginnings, the staff and residents live life each day with the blessed knowledge that God is our strength and help. Too often, though, we forget and try to bear the weight and stresses thinking that we must fight for what we need or we will be left wanting. Not so! God knows everything our heart *needs* and even the things we simply *want*!

When overwhelming matters seem to take over in life – such as a young woman finding out about a pregnancy with no husband, no family support, and no job to help sustain this new life – a heartfelt prayer for guidance and comfort can seem like the only way to go. But what about the times when we are tired and do not want to go to work? God can help us make it through the day! Or when the money just does not seem to stretch far enough to cover the necessities, let alone an offering? God, the Creator and Ruler of all, promises to provide! He is always there and ready to hear our sorrows and fears as well as our joyous excitement.



With summer fast approaching, the "laid-back, take-it-easy, rest-from-life-and-responsibility" attitude can easily take over. At New Beginnings, the busy lives of the residents may not give them cause to "chill out"; rather, they hear the voice of their Lord and Savior calling to them, encouraging them that God is there at all times and in every circumstance of life, "He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber" (Psalm 121:3).

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**June/July 2009**



## Meet Our Staff. . .



*"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3: 18)*

Margo Birkholz was born and raised in Thornton, Colorado. Her father served as pastor at Lord of Life Lutheran Church for 23 years and now serves as a WELS mission counselor. Margo's mother works for a local eye care center and continues to use her degree as a substitute teacher. Margo has an older brother, Neil (24), who is currently serving in China and studying to be a pastor. Her younger brother, Nick (19), is a freshman at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, studying pre-med; and her younger sister, Maggie (12), is in 7th grade at Lord of Life Lutheran School.

Ms. Birkholz graduated from Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin, and continued her education at Denver School of Nursing where she obtained her nursing certification with an emphasis on prenatal and postpartum care. After nursing school, Margo moved to China to serve as an English teacher and a missionary. Her love for Jesus and traveling was fed with the opportunities to share God's Word and teach the Bible.

Margo returned to Colorado this past July to pursue a degree in dietetics and community nutrition. She has worked with Colorado State University's outreach program to educate pregnant teenage mothers on good eating and budgeting habits. Her coursework continues to benefit her at New Beginnings with the addition of information to share with residents. She currently serves as the Home Assistant at *New Beginnings*.

Margo has been involved with *New Beginnings* throughout her life, having volunteered at the home; babysitting the son of a former resident; worshipping on Sundays and taking Bible class with former residents. These interactions gave Margo a glimpse of the amazing opportunities to serve her Savior and her Christian family at *New Beginnings*. She finds it an honor and a humbling experience to be a part of God's outreach in this way.

## Letters From Home



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jessica and I have a five month old daughter, Kenzy. I've been staying at New Beginnings for about four months now. Since then I've been attending GED classes and I'll be graduating by the end of June. Before my daughter and New Beginnings, it was as if I had no motivations for my life. Now I'm about to have my GED, start college, and have a part time job, on top of being a mother. I never saw my self accomplishing so much or even having these big plans for my life, if it wasn't for all the support, love, and motivations of New Beginnings. Not only has this program helped me with my goals as a new mother but it has also brought me closer to the Lord. It was my daughter's first real home and I feel truly blest to have such a great opportunity to make a change for my self and my daughters.



Sincerely,  
Jessica and Kenzy

*Jessica and Kenzy*







The *Change for Life* program is a great way to raise awareness and funds for *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. Perhaps you have participated and experienced the blessings first-hand.

In order to promote the program to a larger audience, we recently sent information to all the ladies' groups in our WELS/ELS churches. The *Change for Life* program seems like a natural fit for these groups, because they are eager to support ministries and they want to help fellow women. We are eager to see some positive response from that mailing, and we hope that many groups take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Please encourage your ladies' group to conduct the *Change for Life* program. The benefits are certainly worthwhile, and the ladies will feel that they have made an important contribution to a wonderful ministry. Also remind them that the materials are all provided at no cost.

On a related note, we recently created a new DVD that tells the story of *New Beginnings*. The short video production is called, "A New Beginning," and is a great motivational tool for anyone who wants to learn more about this vital ministry.



For more information on the *Change for Life* program or the DVD about *New Beginnings*, please go to

**[www.HelpNewBeginnings.com](http://www.HelpNewBeginnings.com)** or call  
**1-800-729-9535**.



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Some residents use the summer months to take classes towards their GED or college degree. Others continue working for a better financial future, and a few may even adjust to the cries and responsibilities of parenting a newborn. *New Beginnings* continues its ministry 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And all of this activity can seemingly make it impossible to remain focused! But we rely on a complete trust in God to provide the energy, time and means to keep this ministry going, leaning on His promises to carry us through.

While the residents' time at *New Beginnings* certainly does not last forever, the message of God shared here continues beyond their stay. Sharing this message is the foundation of the *New Beginnings'* ministry. Highs and lows in life come and go like the seasons; but unlike the break of summertime, God's peaceful assurance never ends: *"The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore"* (Psalm 121:8).

May this message continue to bring peace to all of our hearts and encouragement to rely on God as He helps us to fight the good fight against the everyday struggles of a sinful world.



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## Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- Study Bibles  
(To hand out to new residents when they move in)
- Donations Towards New Apartment-Sized Stoves  
(To replace old units with non-usable burners)
- Disposable Diapers  
(ALL SIZES NEEDED WITH 5 BABIES!)
- Baby Medications  
(Such as Tylenol, Oral Gel, etc.)



Four times a year you receive *Growing Branches*. Four times a year it contains a "Needs" list. Four times a year it includes an envelope for your monetary gift of support. Four times a year we seek your support through this periodical. Please consider helping us with your gifts to *New Beginnings*.

**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**:

☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Please contact me about remembering *New Beginnings* in my will or estate plan. **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**  
c/o Christian Life Resources (CLR)  
3070 Helsan Drive  
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

CLR provides all fundraising  
and administrative services  
for *New Beginnings*.

**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.

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