



Growing Branches

Update from *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*
Denver, Colorado | Fall 2010

Homecoming *By Liz Seelow*

Autumn is here along with all of its associated activities. One of those activities might be attending your alma mater's homecoming. With excited anticipation you pull an old varsity letterman jacket or sweater out of storage. Part of the allure of this celebration comes in knowing that you'll be welcomed as one of the family. It will be just like the old days. As Christians we experienced a far more wondrous homecoming when we were welcomed into God's family through the washing of baptism.

The residents at *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers* are able to feel this same sense of welcome and joy when they come to the home. *New Beginnings* is much more than a safe and secure place to live – it's a place where women and their children become part of Jesus' family.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19,20).

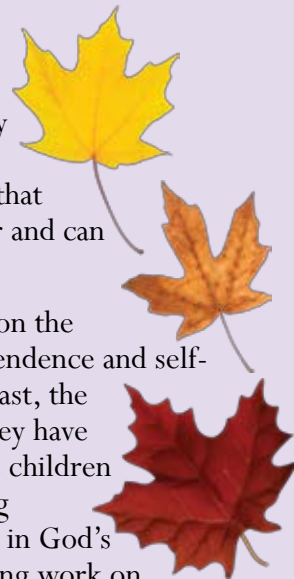
Our residents experience an indescribable feeling of belonging and security once they have been brought into God's family through the working of the Word. These women know from experience that earthly homes, no matter how safe or comfortable, can come

and go like the wind. However, as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, they trust the gospel comfort that membership in God's family is forever and can never be taken away from them!

Our society places tremendous value on the achievements of the individual. Independence and self-sufficiency are exalted traits. By contrast, the women at *New Beginnings* learn that they have done nothing to achieve their status as children and heirs in God's family. Undeserving sinners confess that their membership in God's family is solely the result of Jesus' saving work on their behalf. It is pure grace!

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:12,13).

We thank and praise God for the unmatched comfort that our residents experience when they come to know God as their Father and Jesus as Savior and Brother. With fellow-believers they share in the joyful anticipation of an eternal homecoming that will be unmatched! 📖



Letters From Home

My name is Israel Lee, born Feb 19th, 2010 and in the picture with me is my mom, Noel, she's 33. We moved into New Beginnings the first week in March.

I want you to hear about our experience through my eyes because what is happening here at New Beginnings has given me a great start in life and a brighter future. Because of God's grace and your faithfulness I have a home that after our very busy days I get to come to.

Every time we walk in the door my face lights up knowing I'm at home, my home, and that I'm safe and surrounded by people that love me. We are taught and experience God as our Father here. He is the man in our lives, the one constant man. Mom and I are both learning how God is the same yesterday, today and forever. We can trust Him. And his love for us is as endless as it is unending.

Between mom's hurdles growing up and a series of very poor choices as an adult she knows it's more than luck that's kept her alive and that she's unimaginably blessed to have had me out of the whole mess. She tells me every day I'm her biggest gift and one that even the best person couldn't possibly deserve.

Mom was looking for housing while pregnant with me. No one would give her the time of day because on paper she can look pretty unforgivable. But like God, the people here at New Beginnings looked at mom's heart and knew that just like me she deserved a chance at a real life too.

As we continue to both grow and learn our gratitude grows more insurmountable every passing day. I can't imagine life without this place. It's all I've known, this HOME and with it a mom full of peace and hope and life because now she has her new beginning too.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and gifts. Lives are being forever changed.

Love Always,

Israel
and Noel



Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- Disposable Diapers & Baby Wipes
- Donations Towards New Carpeting (To Replace Worn Carpets) & Bathroom Remodeling

For a complete list, go to:
www.HomeforMothers.com/pdf/wish_list.pdf



Teamwork By Liz Seelow

Anyone who has participated in a team sport knows about teamwork. Getting the job done requires a coordinated effort that places the needs of the team above the needs of the individual. It may be tempting to follow the credo that you had better do it yourself if you want it done right, but that won't wash in a team sport. Success will always be elusive until the entire group learns to come together and function as one. This team mentality is also important for the residents and staff at *New Beginnings*. In order for a program like *New Beginnings* to run successfully and smoothly, the women must work together as a team.

The members of a football team have to learn to trust each other in order to reach their full potential. Only through mutual respect and trust will they become comfortable enough to give 100-percent effort in their assigned tasks. The residents also learn to trust. They learn that their newfound home is a place where they can bring their troubles and concerns to the table and know that it won't go any further than that. It takes trust to speak frankly and honestly. Honest discussion is critical in dealing with parenting troubles, relationship issues, concerns in the workplace and other challenges to their faith.



love hopes

Every member of a football team has a specific job. Here at *New Beginnings* the residents are also assigned specific chores. By working as a team they make the building clean and livable. The sense of pride and accomplishment they feel would not be possible without teamwork.

The members of a football team are assigned to a specific unit. They might play on offense or defense or special teams. Each athlete belongs to a team within a team. In a similar way, our residents belong to a smaller "team" – their own small family. They are now learning the leadership skills of a parent by taking care of themselves and their child. This is truly an awesome responsibility. Each parent is guided and coached to become better and better at the job.

Thankfully, when all is said and done, we have a constant on our team – Jesus. Only by grace are we able to work together in Christian love and unity. We have the comfort of Jesus' forgiveness when we falter and the assurance that Jesus will give us strength as we work as a team to live for Him. It is said that the great coaches are great teachers. Jesus is the greatest teacher, but He is more than that. He is more than a coach or an example or a mere motivator. He is our Savior! 📖

Special Presentation

We are pleased to welcome two special guests to this year's Christian Life Resources National Convention. Liz Seelow, the *New Beginnings* Home Manager, and Noel, a *New Beginnings* resident, will be sharing their experiences with the convention attendees. This will be a unique opportunity for supporters of *New Beginnings* to learn about this ministry from the people who are directly involved. Your support, through prayers and offerings, makes it possible for women like Noel to turn their lives around and become responsible parents. More importantly, your support ensures that the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared with the mothers and their children.

The Convention will be held on **Saturday, November 13, 2010** at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Slinger, Wisconsin**. The cost to attend is **only \$20** and includes lunch. Learn more and register to attend at www.CLREvents.com. You may also register by calling 1-800-729-9535.



Brandi, former resident at *New Beginnings*, and Liz Seelow at last year's conference

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! 📖





New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

3070 Helsan Drive
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #141
Batavia IL



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$55,000 IN 2010!

On average it costs \$28,000 to provide for the needs of each of the six mothers and their children at *New Beginnings*. Your congregation can touch more lives than ever this year with the "Change for Life" program.

**TOTAL DONATIONS
SINCE JANUARY 1:
\$30,259.87**



Contact us at 800-729-9535 or
info@christianliferesources.com
for more info.

New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers is a Christ-centered home for single mothers and their children. It is affiliated with 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.

Contact: **Ms. Liz Seelow - Home Manager**
Ray and Joanne Solofra - Volunteer House Parents
Telephone: **1-303-364-0890**
1-800-720-MOMS
E-mail: **Info@HomeforMothers.com**
Website: **www.HomeforMothers.com**



*A ministry sponsored by
Christian Life Resources*

4 times a year...

You receive *Growing Branches*.
It contains a "Most Needed Items" list.
It includes an envelope for your monetary gift of support.
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 help *New Beginnings*: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

Phone _____ or Email _____

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

Phone _____ or Email _____

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*.