



Growing Branches

Update from *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*
Denver, Colorado | Spring 2011

Graduating with a “New Beginning”

By Liz Seelow, Home Manager

*“God be with you till we meet again,
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you –
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, Till we meet
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.
Till we meet, Till we meet –
God be with you till we meet again.”*

Over the past three years I have seen many residents enter and leave the *New Beginnings*’ program. Some leave earlier than others, but those who graduate from the program truly find a new beginning in their lives. Many of the women – when they first enter – think a year is going to take forever. But before they know it a month passes, then six months, and soon they find themselves at their graduation date. Many comment they had no idea how quickly the past twelve months could have passed!

As a staff member I see the personal, parenting, and spiritual growth they all make. While the residents may not see it during their stay, they do see it when they are out on their own once again. They find the strength to resist the temptations that are often still there from when they first entered the program – whether it is

drugs, alcohol, unhealthy relationships, etc. They also realize where the strength comes from. They no longer rely on themselves to get through the tough situations.

Rather, they have a three-person team on their side – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What an amazing blessing!

Not only do these women make tremendous strides in their spiritual life but also in their personal and family lives. They are able to spend their time at *New Beginnings* learning what true love is through Christ and modeling that to themselves and to their children. When I see these graduated residents at church, the grocery store, or a visit back at the home I see how well adjusted they and their children are. This strength does not come from them but rather through Jesus.

The staff and residents sing the hymn mentioned above when a resident leaves the program, whether they leave early or at their graduation. While we may not see the fruit of our works here on earth, we have the assurance of faith that we will, like the hymn states, meet again if nowhere else than in heaven.

I give thanks to God for the ministry here at *New Beginnings* and for those who support us. 📖



WANTED!

Volunteer House Parents/Home Manager Positions at *New Beginnings*

VOLUNTEER HOUSE PARENTS: Monthly stipend provided; ideal for retired couple willing to work months (even years!) at *New Beginnings* in the metro-Denver area; position begins May 1, 2011.

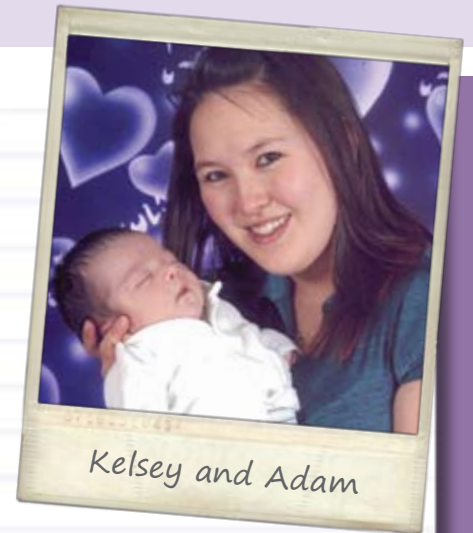
HOME MANAGER: Full-time paid position begins June 1, 2011.

If you are interested in these unique ministry opportunities, email info@christianliferesources.com, tell us which position you are interested in, and we will send you the pertinent job description and application form.

Letters From Home

HERE'S TO OUR NEW BEGINNING!

Before finding out I was pregnant, I was living a life full of lies, pain and regret. In February of 2010, I was kicked out of my parent's house; I saw it coming due to the fact that I had once again relapsed into my old lifestyle of drugs, alcohol and sex. In April of 2010, I found out that I was 5 weeks pregnant...



Hi, my name is Kelsey, and I'm a 19-year-old mother, to my beautiful son Adam. Since coming to *New Beginnings* in September of 2010, I can say that my life has made a complete 180° turn. In that same month I had started a GED program, and was searching for a job. By October, I had a temporary job position at Party City! And by November I had received my GED, and had passed every test my first try. By December, with my due date on the 23rd, I had another temporary job position at Big Lots! Unfortunately I was having some complications in my pregnancy and had to quit. Then on December 26th of 2010 Adam was born. Before I moved into *New Beginnings*, I had never been to church, although I did believe there was power greater than myself. Now I'm starting to learn more about the Word of God, and how much He loves me. In fact, on January 30th Adam and I were both baptized. I can honestly say that building that relationship with God has helped me find peace and serenity within myself. It's also helped me to see things differently, and to count my blessings. God is great, and He loves me; I truly believe in my heart that God gave me Adam to save my life. I believe that Adam is my angel. And I believe that God has His plans for us. I can't wait to continue this journey – our new beginning.

Hi I'm Kelsey – and I'm a pure compassionate, beautiful and strong young woman of God. And I have a gift from God, my angel – Adam.

May you find peace with God also.

Adam + Kelsey ♥



“Here Am I, Send Me!”

The Lord places opportunities before His followers in sometimes unexpected ways. Such is the case with the current *New Beginnings*' house parents, Ray and Joanne Solofra. In late 2008, this retired couple discovered the need for house parents to help run the home. Joanne recalls, “I remember the CLR National Convention 2008, and Pastor Fleischmann came up to me and said the current house parents at *New Beginnings* were leaving. He didn't know what they were going to do.”

Joanne's response was immediate, “I said we would volunteer for the first three months of 2009.” The Solofras saw the need to volunteer their services and responded with an immediate and resounding, “Here am I, send me!”

*Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Long and loud the Master calls us,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?*

Ray and Joanne's collective heart for the *New Beginnings*' ministry cannot be understated. They dived into the work with Christian enthusiasm in early 2009. Their love for the Lord, for the residents and their children, and the ministry continued and continued... and still continues today!

“It is now February of 2011 and we are still here,” Joanne said. “We have taken time to be with our family for confirmations, graduations, new great-grandchildren, baptisms, and weddings. We also were able to have a wonderful vacation in Europe last year with our youngest daughter and family, but for most of the last three years we have been at *New Beginnings*.”

Despite living as retirees, Ray and Joanne continue to serve their Lord in this unique way at *New Beginnings*. “Praise the Lord that He gives us the health and the desire to work with these girls who want to change their lives.”



Joanne and Ray Solofra

The couple finds satisfaction in assisting the home each day, particularly in watching the residents grow in their knowledge of the Lord. “There is nothing that makes us happier than to see a girl come to faith, be baptized and have her baby baptized.”

The three-month journey which started three years ago will soon end. Ray and Joanne will finish their time at *New Beginnings* the end of April of this year. “Our prayer is that the Lord still has work for us to do and that more people who are retired would find the joy we have found volunteering here.”

Would you consider volunteering your time at *New Beginnings* as replacement volunteer house parents? Contact us for details! 📧

CHANGE FOR LIFE



It is that time of year again for us to remind congregations of the wonderful opportunity to get involved in helping *New Beginnings* with the Change for Life program. We fell slightly under our goal of \$55,000 in 2010, but still saw generous donations totaling almost \$40,000! On average it costs just over \$28,000 to provide for each resident's housing, meals, transportation, laundry, furnished apartment, staffing and counseling needs at *New Beginnings*. Thank you to everyone who helped and we hope you and even more will participate again this year! The program is so easy to run - more information can be found at www.HelpNewBeginnings.com or email caseyp@christianliferesources.com. We will also be sending out an informational mailing on the project to each congregation. We hope to hear from you soon! 📧





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

Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- 12-Inch Fry Pans
- Pack – N – Play Sheets & Twin Bed Sheets
- Booster Seats (Highchairs that strap onto regular dining room chairs)

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

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*.