



Growing Branches

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

Here We Grow... Through the Miracle of Jesus' Birth

By Heidi Olson, Home Manager

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:8-11)

everyone for their prayers, donations and generous support of our program throughout the year! Thanks to your heartwarming dedication, we have been able to provide single mothers and their babies with a safe, loving, Christian home and a much-needed fresh start. We wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year! 📖

What a joyous message and what a miraculous birth! I recall reciting these verses in a variety of Lutheran churches during several Christmas Eve services throughout my childhood. Each time I spoke my part, regardless of whether it was the first or the 21st time, I felt honored to be relaying the wonderful message originally spoken by the angels so long ago. It is a message that is just as amazing now as it was then, and it is just as important for us to share as it was for the angels. God gave us the most precious gift ever in His son Jesus, the Savior of the world, on that very first Christmas.

As we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas again this year at *New Beginnings*, we pray that each of you will join us in praising God for his miraculous gift. We would also like to thank



Stephen with his first teddy bear ever

Here We Grow... In Faith

Hello Everyone,

My name is Scearra (Ciara). I have been a resident at New Beginnings for almost 8 months now and everything is going great! This place is truly a blessing. When I was living in Florida, I got pregnant with my son. I was not expecting this and was really confused and didn't know what to do. I was afraid, but one thing I knew in my heart was that I was not getting rid of my child. So, I had to figure out how to make it work.

That's when I came back home to Colorado looking for answers and continuing to pray for guidance. Then, out of the blue, my mother found information on New Beginnings. I honestly wasn't that excited about the idea of it, but I knew it was gonna be best for me and the new life I had to provide for. Then a few months later the BEST thing in the world happened and I became a mother to my son Rhyan Isaiah. He's beautiful, healthy, has a head FULL of hair that I love, one dimple and he is the reason I get to smile everyday now. Things are still a little shaky for us, but I'm glad we have a place to call home and that my son has a reliable roof over his head thanks to New Beginnings. I'm so GLAD I chose to live here. :)



Scearra

Here We Grow... Through Day Camp By Beth Riedel

Peace Lutheran Church in Wautoma, Wisconsin, hosted a Sunbeam Day Camp in late July 2011. Sunbeams are the younger-aged group of the Lutheran Girl Pioneer program – specifically geared for kindergarten through second graders.

The theme of the Day Camp was “Itty-Bitty, Teeny-Tiny.” The Sunbeams learned that all things in God’s creation are important, even tiny things. Among the day’s activities they learned about insects and even had a “bug” picnic (the girls made bug wings and headbands to wear during their lunch of bug-shaped sandwiches, fruit, and flower juice); they explored seeds and snowflake fun, and they also learned about how we all are Jesus’ little lambs. The girls continued the fun with a hunt through a local golf course to find missing lambs, learned the hymn *I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb*, and made onesies for the babies at *New Beginnings—A Home For Mothers*.

Pictured on the right are the fruits of their labor that were later presented to *New Beginnings*! Way to go, girls! 📷



Pictured above holding the onesies they made are Autumn Shea (Riverview, Appleton), Emily Riedel (Helper, Peace, Wautoma), Rebecca Bohn (Helper, Peace, Wautoma), Susan Riedel (Peace, Wautoma), Emily Bohn (Peace, Wautoma), Kaliska Klusmeyer (Peace, Wautoma) and Mary Riedel (Peace, Wautoma). Day Camp was led by Beth Riedel, Sunbeam Leader from Peace.



Here We Grow... Through Volunteering

By Linda Olson, Volunteer House Parent

Volunteer week began on an enthusiastic and exuberant note at *New Beginnings* this past October. Jack Sullivan, one of our board members, along with several members of the Lepus family (Dave, Jake, Josh and Zack) from Living Hope Lutheran Church in Brighton, Colorado, arrived after worship services one Sunday to complete some yard work prior to the official start of winter. They spent a few hours raking leaves, trimming shrubs, pulling weeds and cutting down limbs that became tangled in the phone lines. They were extremely efficient and made sure to put all of the trimmings, weeds, trash, etc. into the trash dumpster when they were finished. It was fun to watch the brothers “compete” over the various tasks – in the way that brothers often do. Overall, it made a huge difference in the look of the property, and the staff and residents truly appreciated their time and talents. Thanks, guys, for the great job!



Two of the guys raking leaves in our yard

The following Sunday a second group of volunteers – Trevor Thompson, Denver Greivous, Mark Denn, Zach Schlittenhart, Greta Sievert and Erynn Kinney) from the youth group at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Thornton, Colorado, assisted with some other odd jobs at the home.

Their youth director, Adam Frey, has coordinated a fall clean-up outing at *New Beginnings* every October for the past five years. These guys and gals were eager to do any tasks given to them. The girls washed and cleaned the interior of both of the *New Beginnings*' vans. The guys picked up trash, mowed the lawn, pulled more weeds, raked more leaves, and cut down a wily tree that had begun to grow between the outside storage shed and fence. One grateful home manager (!) was excited to see the removal of that tree, as well as the rotten boards lying alongside it.

Since the youth group arrived at *New Beginnings* directly after church, they were rewarded with a pizza luncheon for all of their hard work! During lunch the conversation centered on the home and the residents living there. This



Greta and Erynn washing our vans

became the perfect opportunity to discuss how difficult life can be when a young female becomes pregnant, and the father takes no responsibility for the baby. They discovered first-hand how the fun, carefree lifestyle many of the residents enjoyed as teenagers came to an abrupt halt. Following lunch, the teens were given a tour of the facility. We thank the perceptive, polite and hard-working youth group volunteers. Their enthusiastic support was nothing short of heartwarming.



Linda Olson enjoying her time with her new friend

In keeping with the spirit of volunteer week, I assisted with child care at a local church during an “English as a Second Language” class. I realized my ability to speak and understand Spanish with the children was quite limited. Luckily playtime and toys require only action and doing.

The Bible encourages us to help one another, and volunteerism is one of the many ways we can do that. As Acts 9:36 states, “There was a disciple named Tabitha who was always doing good and helping the poor.” When we take the time to help others with their busy day we are rewarded in countless ways whether it is by sharing a big smile, hearing a sigh of relief or seeing that look of thankfulness written all over someone else’s face. 📷





New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

3070 Helsan Drive
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

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Most Needed Items at New Beginnings

- Boys' winter clothing (0-12 months)
- Infant car seat covers (5)
- Maternity clothes (L & XL)
 - Chest of drawers (2)

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

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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. Heidi Olson - Home Manager**
Ms. Linda Olson - Volunteer House Parent

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

E-mail: info@homeformothers.com

Website: www.HomeforMothers.com



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