



Growing Branches

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

Here We Grow...Through Our Experiences

By Heidi Olson, Home Manager

As the warm, relaxing summer days and months rapidly come to an end, we thankfully reflect on all the blessings God has bestowed on us during such a wonderful season. In a setting as majestic as Denver, God's handiwork is evident as far as the eye can see. We are surrounded by magnificent mountain ranges, swiftly-flowing rivers, crystal-clear lakes and an array of wildlife. To top it all off, the weather has been absolutely gorgeous! We truly enjoyed the abundance of sunshine we received which, according to the local radio stations, averages out to approximately 300 days of sunshine a year.

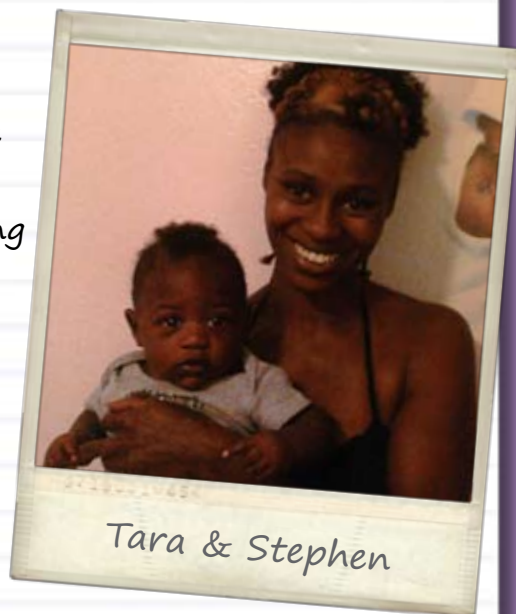
The beautiful days lent themselves well to cookouts on the back patio, walks in the nearby parks, trips to the community pool and our most exciting group outing of the season to the Edelweiss Alpaca Farm in nearby Erie, Colorado (pictured on the right). During our trip to the alpaca farm, we experienced firsthand what amazing animals God created to assist us with our daily lives and needs. We learned that the fleece from alpacas provides natural fibers that can be used to create clothing including sweaters, scarves, hats and socks. The animals themselves are gentle, curious and intriguing. We thoroughly enjoyed a private tour of the farm followed by a quaint picnic and Christian fellowship with our hosts Dave and Carol Hinrichs. Overall, it was a truly enlightening experience and one that left us all thinking this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118:24)



● *Here We Grow... In Faith*

Hi, All!

My name is Tara, I am 32 and have by the grace of God overcome addictions, depression, suicidal tendencies and fear. Thankfully, I will be attending school in the fall for medical billing and coding. I am excited about my life at New Beginnings and the life that is to come! Enough about me, there is someone more important than myself and deserving of a better life than I have had thus far.



● The sun rises on his eyelids, his smile lightens moods, his laugh makes the saddest person chuckle a bit, he is strong, observant and content, he has mastered the belly-to-back roll and can now slouch with light parental supervision. Cradle cap created a perfect “fauxhawk” which actually adds to his already-colorful personality. I have several other specifics written in my calendar because I do not take any of this for granted. I could not do it without the New Beginnings program.

Stephen is my adorable six-month-old son. I was going to place him for adoption, because I felt like I had nothing I could give him and I told God as much. I asked Him to help me and to provide for my child. Graciously, He said yes! New Beginnings is a miracle and a blessing for me. I want to thank the staff and all the hearts that were BIG enough to understand and see this burden and want to help with it. I also want to thank God for placing this ideal in those special individuals. I understand this can be a challenging position. So, Thank You All!

**Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
(Galatians 6:2)**

Tara



Here We Grow... Through Life's Transitions

By Heidi Olson, Home Manager

As the saying goes, "The only thing constant in life is change," and that has certainly been the case here at *New Beginnings* over the last two months. Luckily, change can be a good thing. It can give us a fresh start, teach us to be flexible, keep us on our toes, make us thankful for what we have and prepare us for what lies ahead.

At the end of May, Linda and Frieda (my mother and grandmother) drove cross country from Jacksonville, Florida to Aurora, Colorado to assume the respective roles of Volunteer House Parent and Volunteer House Grandparent. At the beginning of July I moved from Bowling Green, Kentucky to join them as the new Home Manager. Although the climate alone is a huge change, few things are quite as daunting as leaving your home, friends, job, coworkers and sense of comfort behind. On the flip side, there is nothing quite as invigorating as a sense of adventure, a new frontier or a fresh start.



Heidi, Linda and Frieda

As big as the change was for the three of us, it was almost equally impactful on the residents here at *New Beginnings*. The leadership and personalities they had become accustomed to since they arrived changed throughout a 60-day transition period. Despite being understandably wary of "strangers," they greeted us warmly, got to know us gradually and have inevitably invited us to share in their lives. *New Beginnings* has become our next adventure, our fresh start, our new home and our extended family.

Although our 60 days of transition have come to an end, the changes will continue to come day after day, and we will continue to grow and adjust accordingly. Thankfully, as we proceed with our constantly changing lives here on earth, Malachi 3:6 assures us that "I the Lord do not change." He is always present, always in control and always has our best eternal interest in mind. 📖

Here We Grow... To Serve Our Residents

The women of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington have always had a heart for mothers and babies, so when some of the women suggested a special offering for *New Beginnings*, it was greeted with great excitement. *New Beginning* bottles were ordered and then placed in the church entryway at the end of February. In short order they all disappeared! And then they started reappearing... filled with coins and bills! They were emptied by volunteers and placed back out again, many of them only to disappear and return again!

The offering took place from the beginning of March until Mother's Day (May 8). In the process, 47 dollars, 19 half-dollars, 1,694 quarters, 2,401 dimes, 1,518 nickels, and 11,556 pennies came in for a total of \$911.56! Volunteers took the coins to Coinstar machines in town and converted them into gift certificates, which enables the full amount to be paid back (instead of a percentage going to Coinstar). They then wrote a check to *New Beginnings* to cover the cost of the vouchers, and the entire amount of change was able to be easily converted into a gift for *New Beginnings*.

What a joy it was for my wife Sheryl and me to hand-deliver the check to *New Beginnings* on a vacation trip to Colorado in June. We toured the facility and met some of the moms and babies that the money would be helping. Pictures and stories of *New Beginnings* will certainly be shared with the congregation, and there is no doubt that they will be doing this again.

What a blessing for the ladies (and men) of Saint Paul's who contributed this special gift out of love for the Lord and for others. It is their prayer that the gift they gave will be a blessing to all involved with *New Beginnings* as well.

In Christ,

Pastor David Birsching



If you'd like to participate in the Change for Life program and help *New Beginnings* like Pastor Birsching and his congregation, please email info@christianliferesources.com or call 800-729-9535.



Growing Branches
Fall 2011



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

- Microwaves (5)
- Vacuum Cleaners (4)
- Diapers (Sizes 3, 4 & 5)
- Baby Bottles

For a complete list, go to:
[www.HomeforMothers.com/
pdf/wish_list.pdf](http://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. Heidi Olson - Home Manager**
Ms. Linda Olson - Volunteer House Parent

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

E-mail: info@homeformothers.com

Website: www.HomeforMothers.com



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Please consider helping us with your gifts to New Beginnings.

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