



# GROWING BRANCHES

## HERE WE GROW...

## Through God's Gift of Love

by Heidi Olson, Home Manager

As we approach the time of year when love is often expressed in the giving of chocolate candy, red roses and diamond jewelry, it is important to reflect on the true meaning of love and its significance in our lives.

Through divine inspiration, Paul dedicated a whole chapter to love in 1 Corinthians 13. In verses 4-8 he wrote, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."* What a powerful and comforting message that can best be summed up in the word, *commitment*. Whether in the best or the worst of times, we know God's love for us through Christ is what *commitment* is all about.

Throughout our daily lives, we are blessed with the opportunity to not only express but also experience love in a variety of roles – as parents, children, spouses, friends, neighbors, etc.

At *New Beginnings*, the kind, protecting, hoping, persevering and unconditional love of a mother is ever-present as these young women embrace their new roles as single parents. In return their infants place their complete trust in the devotion and commitment of their earthly mothers.

While love is often expected among relatives, God also commands us to love our neighbors. Romans 13:9 tells us, *"The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* We are truly blessed to have so many loving

neighbors here at *New Beginnings*! The generous material and monetary donations we receive from near and far are wonderful examples of our Christian neighbors putting God's Word into action.

We learned true love in God's gift of our Savior. He is our inspiration and motivation to love one another! *"We love because he first loved us"* (1 John 4:19) [ESV]. *New Beginnings* is a place of love, centered on Christ, learned daily, and seen in the actions and support of others. Thank you! 🌸





# HERE WE GROW...

## in Faith and Love

Hello!

My name is Mia and I have struggled with drugs and alcohol for the past 8 years. I went through a



Mia and Ariel

constant battle with inferiority, depression and self-hatred. One day, God came into my life and ministered to my heart and mind. He saved me, delivered me and ultimately set me free!!! I give honor to God because He is my rock. This little lady right here is Ariel – Faith. She is a dynamic light that shines within my heart and is the epitome of who God truly is... love! I came to New Beginnings in desperate need of, well, a new beginning. This home has made us whole and made us feel at home. New Beginnings has ushered me into the presence of God and enabled me to be the mother I was called to become through Him. Praise God!!!



# HERE WE GROW...

## Through the Generosity of Others

by Heidi Olson, Home Manager

Maintaining a non-profit organization like *New Beginnings* is no small task and definitely not something that would even be possible without the love and support of countless volunteers, employees, individuals, congregations and organizations.

This past November, I received a call from Pastor Thomas Rawerts from Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He called to let me know that Tie, a young girl in his congregation, “wished to donate her stuffed animals to children who might be in need due to various circumstances.” Within two weeks, we received a couple large boxes containing the stuffed animals of all shapes, sizes and colors! They were in mint condition and had obviously been well taken care of and loved. The following evening, we gently situated all of them on a couch in the living room and in a *Toy Story*-esque moment they immediately began bringing joy to new little hearts. What an amazing example of selflessness and faith brightening the lives of others! Thank you very much, Tie, for your heartfelt donation and to everyone else who has contributed to the success of *New Beginnings*!

We thank God for the abundant blessings He has bestowed on *New Beginnings*, and we continue to be touched by the generosity of others on a daily basis. 🌸





# HERE WE GROW...

## Through Appreciation

by Heidi Olson, Home Manager

Christmas came a little early at *New Beginnings* in 2011. Thanks to God's abundant love and the generosity of individuals and congregations nationwide, we celebrated Christmas in a big way on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>!

The festivities began with a ham dinner complete with all of the trimmings which were individually prepared by each of the ladies – twice-baked mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, green beans, sweet potato fries and Christmas brownies for dessert. Everyone prepared their items on time, and everything tasted delicious!

As we enjoyed our Christmas meal, we discussed favorite Christmas memories and family traditions. As always, it was interesting and quite entertaining. After dinner, we played a gift exchange game which entailed everyone purchasing and receiving one \$10 gift. Interestingly, a majority of the gifts were scented hand and body lotions. Upon completion of the gift exchange, everyone moved into the common living room area which we had previously decorated with a nativity scene, a Christmas tree and other festive décor. Around the room were piles of presents that had been donated by individuals, congregations and organizations for each of our mothers and babies. Their names were prominently displayed on their corresponding group of gifts so they all took their seats accordingly.

Prior to opening the gifts, we read the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20 and thanked God for the greatest gift of all – Jesus. **For a few of the mothers, this was the first time they had ever heard the Christmas story. What a wonderful blessing to be able to share the good news with them!**

With our hearts appropriately reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, we began opening the gifts that had been so graciously donated. As the wrapping paper was torn and the presents revealed, genuine excitement, surprise and appreciation quickly filled the room! Each gift was opened and meticulously analyzed from the baby clothes, to the blankets, to the toys, to the books, to the diapers, to the lotion, to the gift cards, etc. The laughter was contagious, and the mood nothing short of jovial.

Everyone was overjoyed with the gifts they received and extremely thankful for the thoughtfulness and love the gifts represented. It was truly a memorable Christmas for everyone at *New Beginnings*! ❁



The residents at dinner and with their gifts





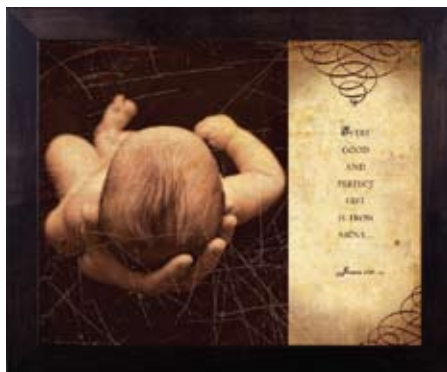
# SHOP FAMILY TREASURES AND GIFTS! ALL ARTWORK ON SALE!

**Framed Verse Sale Price:**  
**\$31.50 (14"x20"); \$16.00 (10"x12")**

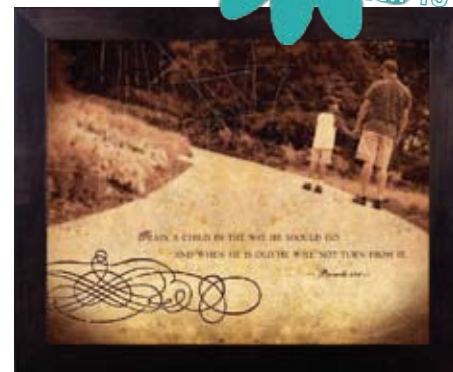
Sale prices good  
 February 16 - March 15



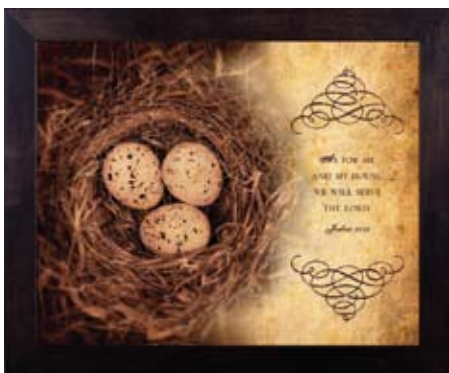
**1 Corinthians 13** - *"And now these three remain; faith, hope, love, but the greatest of these is Love."* 1 Corinthians 13. Framed piece creatively enhanced with swirls and art graphic of a dove.



**James 1:17** - James 1:17 is quoted with this beautiful image of a baby cradled in an adult's hand. *"Every good and perfect gift is from above."*

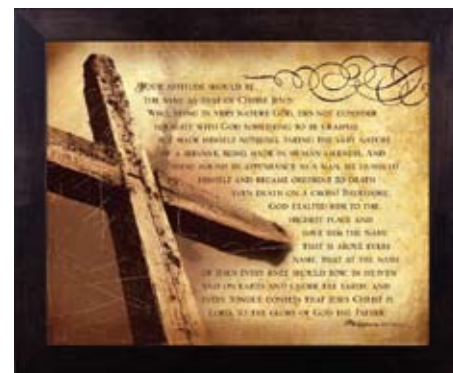


**"Train a Child"** - Proverbs 22:6 is quoted in this print of a father and son hand in hand on a walk. *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* \*Only available in 14"x20"

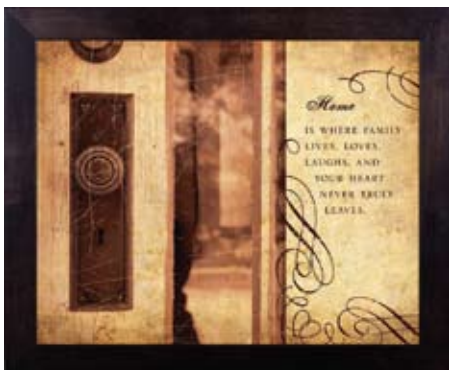


**Joshua 24** - This peaceful image of a nest of eggs in accented with Joshua 24:15 verse: *"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* \*Only available in 14"x20"

Featured work by  
 artist Julie Chen.  
 Simple classic designs  
 in traditional walnut  
 espresso-colored frames  
 with sepia print artistry  
 and rich textured glaze.



**"Be Like Christ"** - In this framed work, artist Julie Chen quotes Philippians 2:5-11 as a reminder of the power of the Word and the beauty of creation.



**"Home"** - Framed verse about where the home really is. Print depicts close-up of doorway with words, *"Home is where family lives, loves, laughs, and your heart never truly leaves."*



**"Created"** - Framed print of adult holding feet of a precious baby. Quote at top features familiar Psalm 139 verses: *"For you created my inmost being: you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*



**"Trust"** - Quote from Proverbs 3:5-6 featured in this framed print of garden pathway. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Check out our entire selection of sale-priced infant, toddler, children's and adult apparel at [www.FamilyTG.com](http://www.FamilyTG.com)!

Sale prices good February 16 - March 15



**Sale \$17.50**

**Pink Heart Gift Box Set** - Great gift! Set of onesie, bib, and toy with a pink heart theme all packaged in a heart-shaped box. Bib and onesie say "He loves me." and the toy reads "God is Love. 1 John 4:16"



**Sale \$17.50**

**Blue Fish Gift Box Set** - Great gift! Set of 0-3 month onesie, bib, and toy with a blue fish theme and packaged in a fish-shaped box. Bib and onesie say "His Little Catch" and the toy reads "I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:19"



**Sale \$10.49**

**"Victory" Blue Toddler Shirt** - Soft cotton pullover shirt for boys with Scripture-inspired words, "With God we will gain the victory," embroidered on front. Girl's version available in pink. Sizes: 2T, 3T, 4T. LIMITED QUANTITIES!



**Sale \$9.99**

**"New Creation" Youth T-Shirt** - 100% preshrunk cotton t-shirt proclaims, *New creation*, along with the Scripture reference 2 Cor. 5:17.



**Sale \$19.99**

**Junior Women's Long-Sleeved Shirt** - This woman's long-sleeved shirt subtly but stylishly conveys your Christian convictions.



**Sale \$20.00**

**Men's "Indenticity" Polo Shirt** - This premium polo for men makes a statement that focuses on our identity as Christians.

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Family Treasures and Gifts store is entirely run by volunteers. Existing as both a small on-site store in the offices of Christian Life Resources and with a substantial presence on the Internet at [www.FamilyTG.com](http://www.FamilyTG.com), this volunteer ministry sells a fine array of products with 100% of the profit supporting the ministry of Christian Life Resources and *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. The store offers more than 2,000 items with various monthly and weekly specials. Do your gift shopping at Family Treasures and Gifts, get a good deal and in the process help a great cause!

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**New Beginnings**

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

**A Home for Mothers**

3070 Helsan Drive  
Richfield, WI 53076-9582

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U.S. Postage

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## MOST NEEDED ITEMS AT NEW BEGINNINGS

- 2 new black couch covers and  
2 new black loveseat covers
- Maternity clothes new or  
gently used (L & XL)
- Professional carpet cleaning

For a complete list, go to:  
[www.HomeforMothers.com](http://www.HomeforMothers.com)

## 4 TIMES A YEAR...

You receive *Growing Branches*.  
It contains a "Most Needed Items" list.  
It includes an envelope for your gift of support.  
We seek your support through this periodical.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US WITH  
YOUR GIFTS TO NEW BEGINNINGS.

- *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**



*A ministry sponsored by  
Christian Life Resources*

***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 \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Please charge a one-time gift to my credit card. **Name on Card** \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☐ Please contact me about having my gifts enhanced through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.
- ☐ Please contact me about remembering *New Beginnings* in my will or estate plan.
- ☐ I would like to support this ministry on a regular basis. Please send me information on becoming a Clearly Caring Sponsor.
- ☐ I would appreciate a letter acknowledgment of this gift. ☐ I would prefer an email acknowledgment of this gift.
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