



# GROWING BRANCHES

## HERE WE GROW...

God is most certainly good, and we should give him thanks and praise! Not only does He provide us with an abundance of blessings, He allows us to honor and thank Him for those blessings by sharing them with others. God tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:12, *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."*

I am overwhelmed and amazed at the generosity of others in all forms and fashions. It goes without saying that we would not be able to keep our doors open for women and babies in need without monetary donations to pay our bills, but donations of material items, time and resources are necessary too. Throughout the last 15 months, I have witnessed a vast array of support for our home. I would like to share a few examples.

On a typical afternoon this past August, I opened up the daily mail and came across a not-so-typical envelope. What made it unique was that a large portion of the envelope was covered with a multitude of stamps in smaller increments than usual. As I looked closer, I realized that the postmark was from Africa. Inside the envelope was a donation from Rev. Stephen Lawrenz and the Lutheran Church of Central Africa in Malawi. Theirs is a mission church and no doubt in need of donations of their own, yet in Christian love, they gave willingly and generously to others in need.

Our quarterly newsletters contain a small section titled "Most Needed Items" which conveys to our readers the items we are either in short supply of, need to replace or have not yet acquired. Within three weeks of our August 2012 newsletter mailing, we had received 100% of the most needed items listed which included standard bed pillows, vacuum cleaners and bed spreads! While everything requested on our needs list is not always fulfilled through material donations, we have received some larger monetary donations over the past year to assist us in purchasing new chairs and vacuum cleaners for the resident apartments, new storage units for our donation area and new security cameras for our building.

## Through the Generosity of Others



by Heidi Westlund,  
Home Manager

We also rely on volunteers who are willing to donate their time and offer their resources to assist with our program. On July 11, 2012, I was contacted by a representative of the local Kiwanis Club who was interested in finding out more about our program and how they could be of assistance. His phone call initiated conversations, meetings and the promise of what is certain to be a mutually beneficial relationship for both of our organizations. Their club has graciously volunteered to provide us with guest speakers the first Wednesday of every month during our regularly scheduled weekly group sessions. The speakers will assist in the personal and family growth of our residents by sharing their knowledge in their various professions and areas of expertise. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Mary, President of Kiwanis Club-DTC, gave a touching and highly interactive presentation on early language and literacy development in children.

In a world of almost seven billion people, it is often tempting to feel like there is not very much we can do as individuals to make a difference. In reality, we may not be able to accomplish a whole lot on our own, *"but with God all things are possible"* (Matthew 19:26).

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated money, material items, time and/or resources to *New Beginnings*. Your loving support has and continues to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. 🌸





## HERE WE GROW...

## Through the Miracle of Childbirth



Prinshel and Ja' Merra

It all started Friday, September 7, 2012 at 12:10 am. I had never felt pain like that before. It continued all the way until Saturday at 6:00 am when I called my doula and said "It's the real deal." She picked me up at 8:00 am and my water broke in the hospital emergency room parking lot around 8:30 am. The contractions were no joke! I had to have an emergency c-section because my angel was turned the wrong way. I thank God for giving me a powerful praying family. All I remember about the c-section was the tugging and pressure, the bright lights and the loud talking. Then, all of a sudden I heard a beautiful, unique cry and that's when I saw my beautiful angel born at 2:54 am on September 9, 2012 weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce and 21 ¼ inches long. Glory to God!

My life has changed ever since I came to New Beginnings and also after my angel was born. New Beginnings has been a great support system and has had a huge impact on my life. We all are very spiritual. Heidi, Mollie, Rosie (the volunteer house parent) and the residents came and visited

us while we were in the hospital. They kept me in their prayers while my body was not acting right after the birth and by their prayers and the grace of God we are home. New Beginnings has helped me make a life plan, is helping me find work and research going back to school, is guiding me on my walk with God and is teaching me how to be a great mother. If New Beginnings wasn't around I don't know where I would be. I thank you so much for your love, thoughts and prayers! You guys rock New Beginnings!

Love Always,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Prinshel Ja' Merra". There are small heart symbols above the first and last names.

## Ice Cream Social!

In an effort to simultaneously show our appreciation to the many supporters and volunteers in our area as well as increase the awareness of our program, we hosted our very first ice cream social on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. To our delight, we had a steady stream of guests throughout the event. We truly enjoyed giving them a tour of our home, thanking them for their past generosity and encouraging them to continue supporting us as God gives them the opportunity!





## HERE WE GROW...

## By Sharing Our Time and Talents

By Rosie Bunnow, Volunteer House Parent

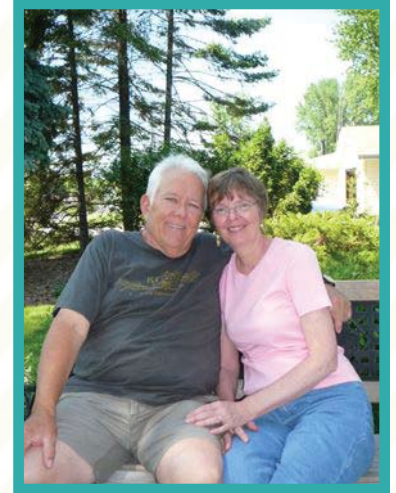
Hello, we are Dave and Rosie, members of Bethany Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. We arrived in Denver with a few decades of experience that have prepared us to join the *New Beginnings*' family. Early in our marriage, we decided love demanded more than talk, and so we welcomed foster teens into our home. In addition, we expanded our experience in group situations by leading Bible studies and couples' retreats.

Dave previously worked as a manager of faculty resources at Fox Valley Technical College, served on numerous church committees and on the Commission for Youth Ministry. Currently, his passion has found outlets in organizing Men of His Word conferences and traveling on disaster relief missions for Christian Aid and Relief. He recently returned from a ten-day trip to Mahahual, Mexico, where he assisted with the ongoing hurricane relief efforts.

I (Rosie) formerly served as an unwed parent counselor for Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service and then spent most of my career teaching communication skills at Fox Valley Technical College. I have also been involved with the Hmong ministry and hospice services.

Now retired, we have waved goodbye to our two sons who are now grown, graduated, and employed family men. With whatever time God yet grants us, we are committed to serving in ways we wish we had been free to do during our careers. As in the past, we know we will receive more than we give. ⚙️

*NOTE: We are delighted to have had Rosie and Dave as our Volunteer House Parents through the end of October. They will continue their journey west to visit their eldest son and his family in Arizona. Their time, knowledge, experience and enthusiasm are truly a blessing to our ministry, and we sincerely appreciate their dedication to the Lord's work.*



Dave and Rosie Bunnow,  
Volunteer House Parents

## HERE WE GROW...

## Through God's Plans

By Mollie Schultz, Assistant Home Manager

Plans. "So Mollie, what are you doing after graduation?" The question seemed to plague me everywhere, but most heavily in my own heart. What on earth could I do with a major in Missions and a minor in Women's Studies?

As graduation at Concordia University Wisconsin approached, I became more nervous. Where did God want me? Luckily, even though my own plans were evading me, He knew what He was doing. With the help of my mother, Janice Schultz, all of a sudden I was emailing Heidi about the assistant manager position at *New Beginnings*! Then, in a whirlwind, I graduated college, accepted the position at *New Beginnings*, said goodbye to my parents and sisters, drove myself from my hometown of Munising, Michigan, to Denver, Colorado, and now here I am living and working in a maternity home that six months ago I didn't even know existed. Wow, God certainly works on a wave length I can't even fathom!

With my little buddy Stephen terrorizing the hallways, tiny Ariel squealing "Hi!" and our two littlest babies Hebrew and Ja' Merra around to cuddle, the house is a joyful and unique place! Here, I am constantly reminded that even though we really never know what our plans are, where we are going next, or the challenges we are going to face, our Savior is in control of them. Jeremiah 29:11 assures us, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." For every one of our ladies at *New Beginnings*, for the children they care for, for me, and for you – God has plans that will ultimately lead us to paradise with Him. ⚙️



Mollie Schultz





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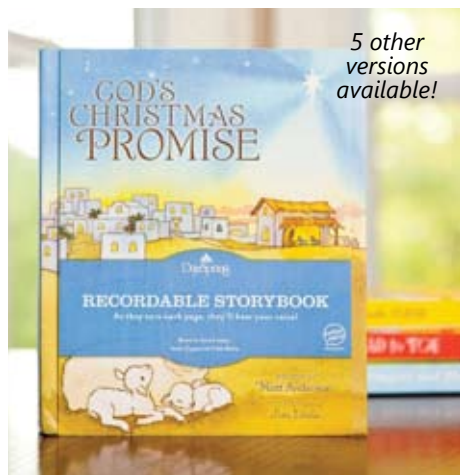


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To the *New Beginnings* Staff:

I love your newsletters. It's so interesting to hear the stories of the girls.

I served as a helper in the summer of 2004. I found being with the girls and their children a good learning experience. Those memories will last a lifetime; that's probably why I enjoy hearing about the girls you have today. The need just never ends.

Bette M.

## 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:

**Mrs. Heidi Westlund - Home Manager**

**Ms. Mollie Schultz - Assistant Home Manager**

**Dave & Rosie Bunnow - Volunteer House Parents**

Mailing Address: **PO Box 423 • Aurora, CO 80040-0423**

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

E-mail: **info@homeformothers.com**

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