



GROWING BRANCHES

A New Year. A New Beginning.

HERE WE GROW...

As sinful human beings, we often like to take the credit when things go as planned and pass the blame when things do not turn out as well. Unfortunately, because we live in a sinful world, we cannot always avoid sadness, pain or tragedy. Fortunately, God IS in control, and Jeremiah assures us that God has *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11). A future of hope in God is what we strive to impart on all of the *New Beginnings* residents. Through daily devotion, regular Bible study and weekly church attendance, the Holy Spirit instills and grows faith within their hearts and those of their children. As with all things, God has His own timetable.

We implemented our Phase II program about one year ago, and thanks to God it is already yielding incredible results. The Phase II program was originally designed to provide existing residents in good standing with more time – specifically, more time to heal and grow in a loving Christian environment, as well as pursue an education or career to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency once they exit the program. Phase II residents are required to adhere to basic Phase I responsibilities, such as attending church,



Resident Mia and her daughter Ariel along with Tara and her son Stephen attending church service

Through God's Plans




By Heidi Westlund,
Home Manager

completing weekly Bible studies, following curfew, and performing weekly chores. They are also given additional responsibilities and have the opportunity to obtain privileges. Phase II residents must work an evening shift at the house every other Friday and set a good example for the Phase I residents. They are also required to attend a community, vocational or technical college or obtain a full-time job. In order to facilitate finding a job or starting school, they are no longer required to attend morning group devotions; however, they are required to conduct daily personal devotions. Thus far, the results of the Phase II program are exceeding our expectations!

Tara is our first Phase II resident (see her article on page 2), and she will soon be exiting the program on a high note. The additional time has made a huge difference in Tara's life by allowing her to realize, figure out and work on some of the things about herself and her life that have inhibited her from "living" for so long. The added flexibility and responsibility of Phase II as well as the additional love and support have made for a life-changing combination in her life. Shortly before Christmas, she was chosen to receive subsidized housing which will allow her to move out of *New Beginnings* and into her own place at a greatly reduced (and affordable) rent.

Mia is our second Phase II resident, and she is not far behind. She has efficiently utilized every second of her Phase II time to get her life in order, and her progress is nothing short of remarkable! She has tirelessly volunteered at her church, worked multiple jobs, spoken publicly about her experiences and has enthusiastically encouraged other residents along the way. All this and she is only halfway through her Phase II experience!

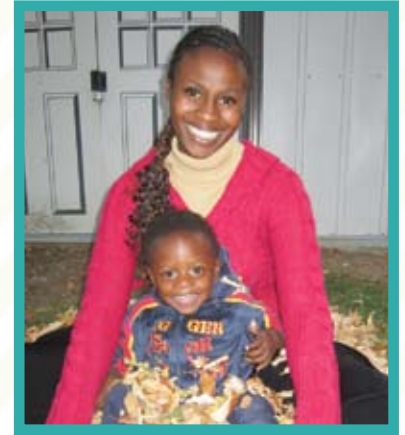
Being alone and pregnant may not sound very hopeful, but God does have plans for us *"... and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose"* (Romans 8:28). 

“WHAT PHASE II MEANS TO ME”

Hello, all! It's me, Tara (and Stephen), one year later...

I really don't know where to begin, but it's all about progressive positive growth! I am so humbled for this experience! I learned that I am strong and what that means. I am currently working at a publishing company that is growing! I was also promoted! I am so excited... if you cannot tell already.

Okay, breathe and write. I want to thank home manager Heidi for her joyfulness and understanding personality. I thank volunteer houseparent "Ms. Linda" for her cool, stern, gentle words. I greatly appreciate the volunteer houseparents, Dave and Rose Bunnow, for opening my eyes to the love and kindness that I was not accepting (my love is with you both, always). Thanks to all the guest speaker pastors and non-pastors; you all have strengthened my faith, made me mad, made me laugh, and caused me to search deeper for God. Last, but not least, thank you Neill, the Program Chair for the local Kiwanis Club, for seeing my faults, exposing them and turning them into gifts.



Tara and Stephen

It has been a long, hard, blind, dark road. I was nothing less than road kill when I entered New Beginnings. I knew only that I needed to take care of my newborn son. All else in me, despite all the smiles, was broken, damaged or dead. I was using what I could to simply breathe. Please understand I was not trying to survive. I was on auto pilot. I didn't really care about my future and was not trying to have one. In a nut shell, I was just trying to stay out of hell. I knew God in so many "senses" of the word, but I still felt very much alone and on my own. Even surrounded by people, I kept them at a distance. I thought that is where they would understand me the best...yes, far away from my problems. See, I didn't have problems – I was the problem. So I felt I was being kind to those around me and not infecting them too.

First off, Heidi is a sneaky, loving, understanding kind of helper of women in my position. I love her as well. To all who will be staff in the future, you cannot fill her shoes, just wear different ones. Heidi found a chink in my armor, although by then it really was not armor. I was more like scrap metal in a junkyard, and I was hiding amongst the mess. She would just walk right in and hug me, grab my hand and take me one rebellious step at a time closer to the edge of the world created through my eyes. God made her strong enough to endure my hostilities and many others like the warm summer breeze (no matter how slight, she brought great relief). This is what started Phase II.

Phase II has provided enough time for the storms in my life to settle and allowed me to focus on my future and raise my son. No, I still don't know what I want to do in school, but that time will come as well. I currently am living by an honor code God implemented. First, honor God; second my family, and lastly myself. It seems to be working. Things are falling into place. For Christmas, my number was selected for "Section 8 Housing" and I will be moving from NB. My friend is giving me one of his vehicles (a 70's VW Bug). I have a job where I was recently promoted. PRAISE GOD!!!! And thank you all! **By Tara**



Mia and Ariel

I closed my eyes to get quiet and "still" before the Lord. As much as New Beginnings is my home, my palace, my castle, I knew it was my time to move on. My thoroughly sought-out prayer for guidance and wisdom was answered with, "'Not yet,' said the Lord"!

Phase II has been an awesome outpouring of God's grace and ultimate favor. God gave me one of the most valuable gifts the human race has ever known...time! Phase II is a gift of God's character: love, hope, strength and charity! "To whom much is given, much is required." Yes, I am obligated to pass this "torch" of God's love on to all who come after me and to show what the true maturity of a woman of God is – stability and charitable love through the power of the Most High.

I love you, New Beginnings! Thank you, Jesus! **By Mia**

HERE WE GROW...

Through Social Media



By Mollie Schultze,
Assistant Home Manager



One of the great blessings of living in the year 2013 is our opportunity to share information and communicate with ease over the Internet. To keep up, *New Beginnings* is proud to have a Facebook page!

Our goal with this page is not only to keep our supporters informed but also to allow them a glimpse of the joy, blessings and growth we experience in this community of women every day. For our past and present residents who have "liked" the page, the interaction, comments and support of our Facebook followers is a constant reminder that there are people all over the United States who care for them and their children.

Our Facebook page also allows us to build a network – a community of people who love and support our program and our residents in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our greatest blessing of all. "Liking" our page will assure you that *New Beginnings* is not just a program or a place to live; *New Beginnings* is a home, and until we can all share in our eternal home in heaven, this one will do just fine! 🌸

HERE WE GROW...

Through Collecting Change

Have you as an individual, a family or a congregation ever wanted to make a significantly positive difference in the lives of others, but were not sure how? Well, here's your chance and all it takes is some compassion, coordination and spare change!

The *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers Change for Life* program provides funds that are essential for supporting the spiritual, family and personal growth of single mothers in need. The funds raised through the Change for Life program allow us here at *New Beginnings* to provide a safe, loving, Christian home for women and their babies who would otherwise find themselves in a desperate and seemingly hopeless situation. By filling up the empty Change for Life baby bottles and/or boxes with your spare change, you are providing them with basic necessities such as clothing, formula, diapers, wipes, toiletries, Bible study materials, and Christ-centered instruction from 24/7 staffing. You are assisting them in becoming stable for possibly the first time in their lives. Most importantly, you are showing them Christian love, you are helping to teach them about God and you are providing them with eternal hope!

If you have participated in the Change for Life program in the past, you know what a tremendous difference it is making and we greatly appreciate your continued support! If you want to consider participating for the first time, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the program itself.

Call 1-800-729-9535 and ask for Casey or email caseys@christianliferesources.com to get started today!

Together we are helping to make an eternal difference in the lives of others! 🌸





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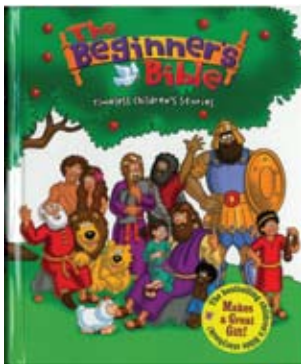
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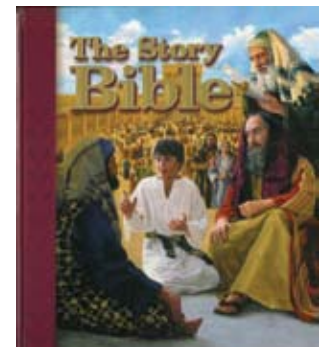
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Infant Girl's Watermelon Romper

Sweet watermelon vines accent the yoke of this romper. The watermelon shaped pocket features the scripture, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8. Snaps at bottom and center back for easy dressing, 100% cotton interlock, machine washable. Available in sizes 3/6M, 6/9M, 9/12M Retail \$21.50 **Sale \$12.99**



Infant Snail Romper

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Infant Khaki Shorts

Cotton poplin shorts feature cargo pockets accented with twill tape tabs. The embroidery on the pocket reads, "His GEM created for God's glory." Elastic waist, faux snap, 100% cotton poplin, machine washable. Available in sizes 3/6M, 6/9M, 9/12M Retail \$17.00 **Sale \$10.99**



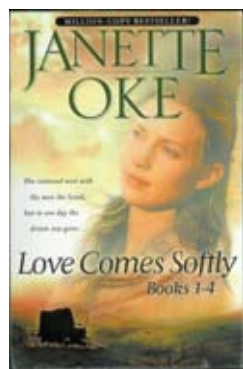
Mother & Child Storytime Bronze-Finish Statue
 This statue depicts a mother cradling her child in her arms reading a book. Made of resin, this contemporary piece is finished in a bronze finish. Statue is attached to a cherry-finish wood base. Size: 9.5"H. Retail \$17.00 **Sale \$10.99**



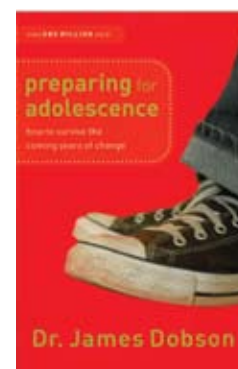
Willow Tree "Promise" and "Together" Cake Topper
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- **New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers** is a Christ-centered home for single mothers and their children. It is affiliated with Christian Life Resources. The home has been serving residents since 1993. It is supported entirely by the generous support and prayers of those who are committed to sharing Christ and reflecting His sacrificial love.
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Ms. Mollie Schultz - Assistant Home Manager
- Mailing Address: **PO Box 423 • Aurora, CO 80040-0423**
- Telephone: **303-364-0890 • 1-800-720-MOMS**
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