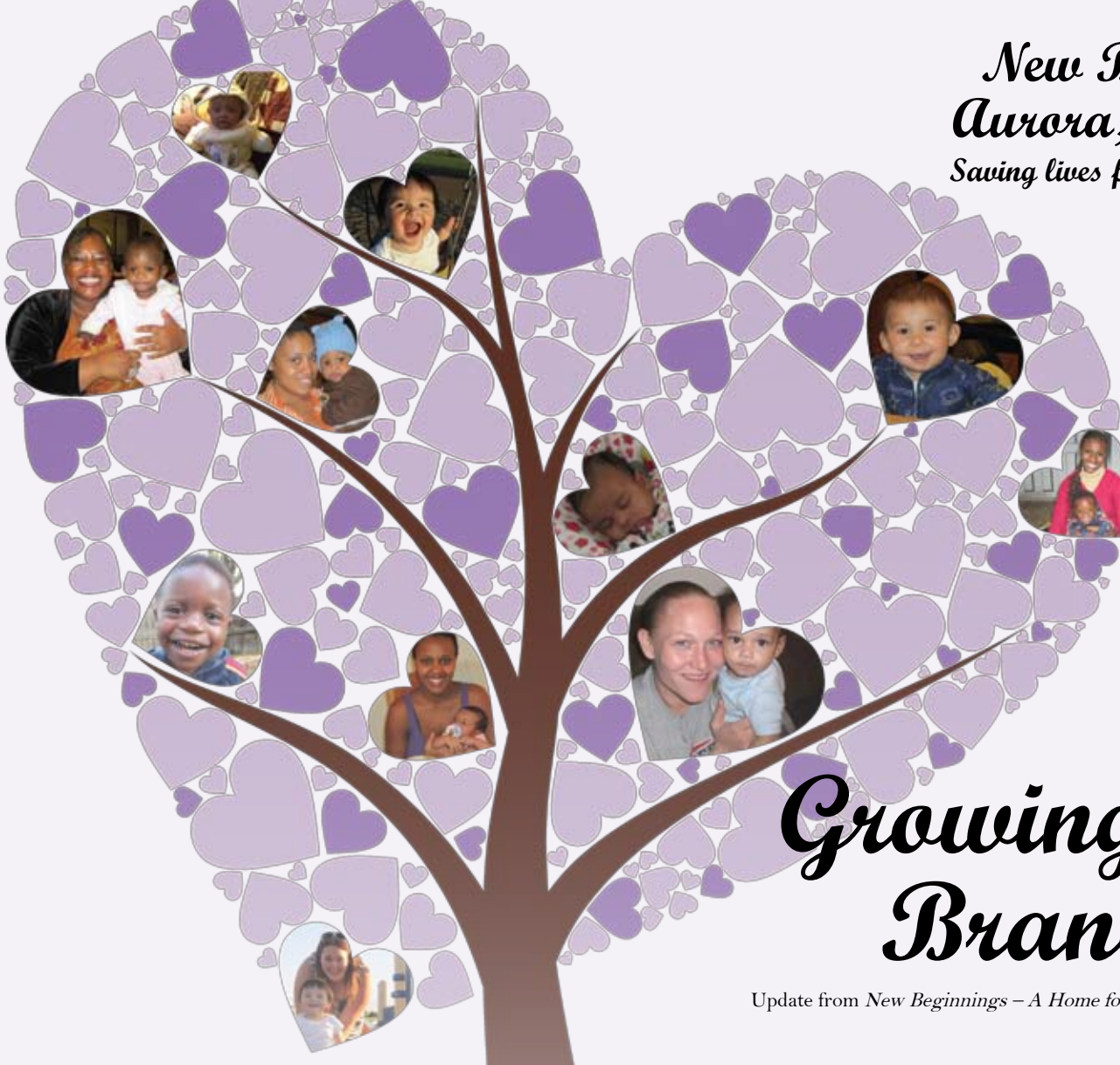


*New Beginnings
Aurora, Colorado
Saving lives from 1993 – 2014*



Growing Branches

Update from *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers* • April 2014

Here We Grow... With a New Beginning

by Pastor Robert Fleischmann
CLR National Director




For more than 20 years, we have shared the story of *New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers* with you. This unique ministry of Christian Life Resources accepted its first resident at its Colorado location in October of 1993. Since then we have served **hundreds of mothers and their newborn babies**.

The time has come for *New Beginnings* to have its own new beginning. By action of the National Board of Christian Life Resources, we will relocate the *New Beginnings'* ministry from Colorado to southeastern Wisconsin. We are looking at this move for the following reasons:

- 1. To serve more mothers at one time;**
- 2. To offer access to a larger volunteer resource base;**
- 3. To operate more economically because of the closer proximity to the CLR headquarters;**

- 4. To explore better outreach opportunities with our mentoring program.**

We expect to close our Colorado operations at the end of summer 2014. The timing coincides with plans by our Assistant Home Manager, Mollie Schultz, who is leaving to pursue additional schooling. Also, our Home Manager, Heidi Westlund, announced that she would like to pursue other ventures in Colorado starting the end of the summer. So the **timing is right**.

New beginnings can be both painful and exciting at the same time. I am excited at the prospect of **reaching more people with the Gospel**. Please help us make this "new beginning" with your generous gifts and prayers. 

Here We Grow... With the Encouragement of Others

by Heidi Westlund, Home Manager



On February 13, 2014, we celebrated yet another milestone in *New Beginnings'* history as Kelsey, already a graduate of our residency program, became the first graduate of our mentoring program! The mentoring program was established in June 2012 in an effort to assist graduates of our residency program to make a more gradual and therefore more successful transition from our program back into the real world. In the mentoring program, graduating residents (mentees) are paired with adult volunteers (mentors) who provide Christian support, guidance and encouragement while holding them accountable as they learn to navigate living on their own.

In this particular situation, Kelsey was paired with Judi Sullivan who has been a long-time supporter of *New Beginnings* and whose husband, Jack Sullivan, is a current board member. As with most new relationships, theirs started out slowly and somewhat awkwardly. A call here, a text message there, and then they had their first official meeting. Judi met Kelsey and her son, Adam, at a local park and as they visited and shared life experiences a bond quickly began to develop. After just two short months, Kelsey would call Judi out of the blue just to say hello, to share good news about work or to tell her about something new that Adam had learned. After almost two years, Kelsey, Adam, Judi and Jack have become more like family than mentees and mentors. They have helped each other through many life experiences: car accidents, surgeries, illnesses, new

jobs, promotions, relationships, etc. One would be hard pressed to find anyone more supportive of the mentoring program than Kelsey and Judi. Judi will be the first to tell you that she feels like she has received much more from the mentoring program than she has given – although I think Kelsey would beg to differ!

Photos from Kelsey's graduation dinner:



Since she entered the mentoring program, Kelsey has started a career in banking. She began as a teller, was promoted three times, and was given numerous bonuses over the past 16 months. She has also been living on her own (self-sufficient) for a year and a half and has been in a healthy relationship with her boyfriend, Terrance, for over a year. In addition, Kelsey is a member at Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colorado. Kelsey has not only turned her life around, she proactively looks for opportunities to share her story, experiences and faith with others. We recently received the following email regarding Kelsey:

"During my job as a courier, I have the pleasure of being acquainted with one of your alumni Kelsey, at her job. She was nice enough to share her story with me and I can say she is an outstanding young lady and should have a bright future in her life.

May God bless your organization for the blessed work that you do." - Mr. Laraiia

When Kelsey entered our program over 3½ years ago, she did not know the meaning of the word "salvation." Thanks to everyone who helps make our program possible she has not only received salvation through her own baptism and confirmation, she is sharing that life-saving message with others. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8).

Here We Grow... Through the Miracle of Spring

by Mollie Schultz, Assistant Home Manager




Spring is my favorite time of year. The yellow and purple crocuses open up their petals in the gloriously warm sunlight. The creeks run fast with snowmelt. I can open my windows as I drive around town. The people flock to the parks; excited to break free from cabin fever. Spring!

Every time I check to see how many of my tiny plants are unearthing themselves, I think about how much I love spring. However, spring is about more than sun, warmth and flowers. It is about beginning anew, putting the wintery past behind and looking to what is ahead.

Here at *New Beginnings*, we are no stranger to the philosophy of spring. Even now, a young mother awaits the arrival of her daughter (who



will come any day!) so that they can start their new life together. As our time in Colorado comes to a close, we, as staff, reflect on the blessed past of *New Beginnings* while we prepare for the bright, new future of the program.

We know that at this bittersweet time, God is in control, just as He guides the flowers to bloom and the rain to fall. Our God also loves the spring – He has given us a new beginning that will last forever! In Song of Songs 2:11-13, He beckons to us with the beauty of spring. *“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”* 

Here We Grow... As We See Through God's Eyes

by Arik McGathe, Volunteer House Parent




A few years ago, my college schedule was such that I had to do a lot of my grocery shopping in the late hours of the night at a nearby 24-hour food store. The patrons of that particular store could have been considered “unsavory characters” — at least at first glance. Many nights, for example, it was not uncommon for me to see parents with young children shopping alongside me — at a time well beyond what a responsible parent would consider a “proper” bed time.

Yet, my initial judgment of these families completely clouded my viewpoint of them. I forgot to consider that these families were just as busy as I was. Perhaps they were about to start their third-shift job, or were just getting off from their second job and trying to squeeze in a little amount of time with their child. I realized I had jumped to conclusions; I hadn't looked at others at face value.

The same can be said of my initial thoughts of *New Beginnings*. I had developed an idea of what to expect, what kinds of experiences I would have, what kind of people I would meet. Such expectations were completely unfounded. Each of the residents are unique individuals: each from very different

backgrounds and each in their own unique situations. I discovered those generalizations and assumptions were unwarranted.

The ease with which I have jumped to conclusions in my own life makes me certain that others have done the same to me. This leads me to wonder what assumptions people make about me when they see me. Do I appear likeable or disagreeable? Has anyone just looked at me and thought, “He must be a Christian”? Matthew 5:16 tells us, *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* What better way to let one's light shine than to accept every person we encounter with a loving, Christ-like attitude! Those people who appear in our earthly eyes to be “unsavory characters” are often those who need our Christian love the most. They are the *“least of these brothers”* mentioned in Matthew 25:40.

So I pray, as Christians, we can remove the shaded lenses that have darkened our eyes in our assumptions about others. May we instead see people through God's eyes so they, in turn, can see God through us. 



CHANGE FOR LIFE

A Fun way to SUPPORT MOMS and babies!

So, TELL ME - What is CHANGE FOR LIFE?

The *Change for Life* program is a group or individual effort created by Christian Life Resources to help support its ministry for single mothers, *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. The program uses baby bottles, boxes and promotional materials to raise money for moms and babies. And everyone can participate - from the youngest child to oldest adult.



WHY should I PARTICIPATE in the CHANGE FOR LIFE PROGRAM?

The *Change for Life* program is a fun way to bring your group together and support a great ministry. Every coin donated goes directly to the moms and babies at *New Beginnings*. You can help provide a safe place to call home, staffing, day-to-day essentials, Christian love and encouragement.

OK, I want to HELP! Now, what's THE NEXT STEP?

Conducting the *Change for Life* program is easy! The first thing to do is sign up. You can do this by sending in the attached form, call, email, or even sign up online. We'll send all of the materials to you for FREE! Then, it's your turn to promote the program and get started! Each person or family gets a box or bottle and fills it with coins, currency or a check during your chosen time period. When that time period is over, simply collect all the materials and send it all back to us along with the proceeds! Get started today!

Please fill out your information below and we will send you the materials FREE. You are only responsible for returning the bottles and DVD when finished (unless you'd like to participate in the program again, then let us know and you can keep everything).

Change for Life Information

Church: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

When would you like to start and end the program? _____

Please check one: Bottles, how many? _____

Blocks, how many? _____

We will use our own materials

Would you like the table or floor display for the blocks (each display holds 30):

Yes, table or floor? _____ No

Please check other materials that you would like for your congregation: DVD about *New Beginnings*

Bulletin Insert Posters, how many? _____

Coloring Sheet for Sunday School



Your loose change can make a difference by providing hope for a young mother and her child who need a new beginning.



This is a great program to run from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Last year groups, congregations, schools & individuals raised over \$43,000 through the Change for Life program! Let's do even more in 2014!

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

Thank You for supporting this vital ministry!

New Beginnings appreciates your prayers to our gracious God on our behalf. We also appreciate your gifts. Yes, I (we) would like to help New Beginnings: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ **Email** _____

Please charge a one-time gift to my credit card. Name on Card _____

Card # _____ Signature _____

Type of Card MC Visa Discover AMEX Expiration Date* _____ Card ID (CVV2/CID) #* _____

WE PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY: Christian Life Resources respects your privacy and will not give away or sell your contact information. Christian Life Resources is a registered 501[c]3 agency under the U.S. tax code. All donations to the ministries of Christian Life Resources are fully tax deductible.

Where to find the Card ID #? For MC/Visa/Discover: 3-digit code on back; AMEX: 4-digit code on front.

*Required

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 want to support this ministry on a regular basis. Send me information on becoming a *Clearly Caring Sponsor*.

I do not require an acknowledgment of this gift.

I want an **email acknowledgment of this gift:** _____ I want a letter acknowledgment of this gift.



Without this program being here we would probably still be homeless on the streets... he probably wouldn't have survived. This is an opportunity of a lifetime and I'm very, very grateful for that. - *Judy, former resident*



New Beginnings
A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources
A Home for Mothers

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We're Moving!
And we could use your help!

If you're driving through the Denver area to Wisconsin and have room in your vehicle please call the *New Beginnings*' office (800-720-6667). If you have any boxes or moving materials that you could send along that would be greatly appreciated.

New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers is a Christ-centered ministry for single mothers and their children operated by 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.

Our Team: Mrs. Heidi Westlund - Home Manager
Ms. Mollie Schultz - Assistant Home Manager
Ms. Cheyenne Linde - Volunteer Resident Assistant
Mr. & Mrs. Arik & Lisa McGathey
- Volunteer House Parents

Mailing Address: Lock Box 56 • Richfield, WI 53076

Phone: 1-800-720-MOMS (6667)

Email: info@homeformothers.com

Website: www.HomeforMothers.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/homeformothers



*A ministry sponsored by
Christian Life Resources*

Christian Life Resources provides all fundraising, staffing and administrative services for *New Beginnings*.

*If you would like to help save costs & receive *Growing Branches* via email, please send your email address to info@homeformothers.com