

GROWING BRANCHES

New Beginnings • Milwaukee, WI
November 2016

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HERE WE GROW... WITH YOUR THOUGHTFUL SUPPORT

by Brianne Hansen, Home Manager

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand (1 Chronicles 29:12-14 NIV)

During the past couple of months, I could not help but praise God for all the blessings he has bestowed on *New Beginnings*. I continue to give thanks – not only for the support of others, but also for what that support means for the mothers and babies. Our ministry serves mothers who often have nothing: no emotional support from family or friends, few belongings, and a lack of resources to help her raise her child. Through the support that we receive from others, *New Beginnings* is able to provide a safe place, a warm bed, loving support, and a vast array of resources for success.

The reality is that we cannot help mothers alone; we depend on the financial support of others to do what we do. In a world with over 7 billion people, we are tempted to think that there is not much we can do. On the contrary, I am often amazed by what can be done by just one individual; for we know, “...with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26 NIV).

I would like to share a few examples of the support we have received recently. One of our Resident Assistants, Caitlin Seastrand, partnered with her home congregation of Reformation Lutheran Church in San Diego to raise awareness and donations for *New Beginnings*. Caitlin, with no direction from the staff at *New Beginnings*, generously took it upon herself to speak about our ministry and fill her car with



Caitlin Seastrand, Resident Assistant, at her home congregation of Reformation Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA, and their generous donations

LETTERS FROM HOME... GETTING THROUGH THE FIRST YEAR

by Shaneka

God has blessed me with a happy, healthy, little girl who has taught me a lot this year on how to love more, have a little more compassion and how to lean on God in certain situations. The first year of being a mom is really scary; I had thoughts like: *am I doing this right, what should I be doing, or does she love me.*

But every morning when she opened her eyes and looked at me I saw her smile, which let me know that I was loved. I remember the first time I dropped her off at daycare I cried like a baby, because my mom and I were the only ones that I trusted with my baby. When I went back to pick her up her eyes lit up with excitement – that made me feel great and loved. So now I look forward to dropping her off and picking her up. I had moments on giving up this year. I just started to pray more and more and began to talk to God asking him for more patience and forgiveness.

I surrounded myself and my child with women that had a love for God and my child. I'm so forever thankful for the ladies at *New Beginnings* for always loving my child and me. So far this year Kiarra has learned how to eat on her own and drink from a sippy cup. Her favorite vegetable is green beans and bananas are her favorite fruit. Kiarra understands the difference between when it's ok to do something and not to do something just by seeing my face; she still tries me though! She plays well with her peers at daycare and has a loving spirit for people.

This little girl brings happiness to my life. God knew just what to do for my life and it was Kiarra. So excited to see what God has for us this year. ♦

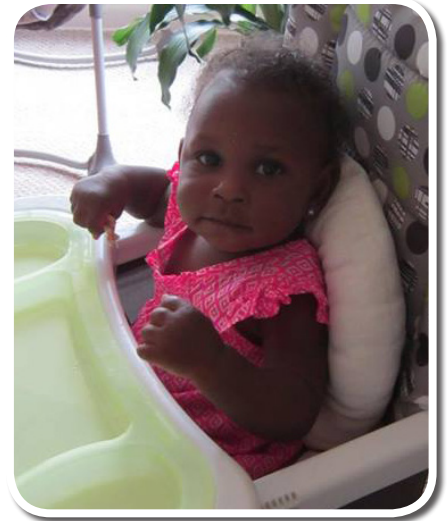
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donations! We were amazed when she came back at the beginning of the school year with monetary and item donations for the home.

I was also contacted recently by the Shoreline OWLS Group and asked to speak at one of their meetings. After giving a presentation on the work that we do at *New Beginnings*, I was overwhelmed with support from the group. I appreciate any opportunity to talk about the work we are doing in Milwaukee!

In addition to monetary support, we often need volunteers to assist us with the educational and personal-growth program components. We are blessed to have regular group night speakers from Wisconsin Lutheran College who assist with teaching an educational class once per week. We also have several individuals who regularly come to mentor and tutor the mothers at *New Beginnings*.

Thank you to all who generously donate their time, money, material donations and talents to our ministry! We could not give our mothers the encouragement and support they need to live a self-sufficient life rooted in Christ without your thoughtful support. ♦



Congratulations to little Kiarra for celebrating her 1st birthday at New Beginnings! We cannot believe you are one year old already! May God continue to bless you and your mother, Shaneka.



HERE WE GROW... A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Holly Holm, Former Intern and Resident Assistant

My time at *New Beginnings* has been nothing short of a great experience. I have been blessed to become a part of the *New Beginnings*' family and cannot thank everyone here enough for helping me get my foot in the door for what I want to do as a career. I was able to work with amazing people who sometimes do not give themselves enough credit for the difference they are making. I hope to be like them during my journey in the social services world, so from the bottom of my heart thank you for pointing me in the right direction and working with me.

I am grateful for the relationships I formed with the residents. I look up to them for persevering and trying to start a new life for themselves and their beautiful little babies. I pray that they find strength and peace in this crazy world, and I hope they know they always have people cheering them on.

I am really going to miss *New Beginnings*. I have learned so much during my time here, and I am excited to make a difference in the world like the staff at *New Beginnings* does! ♦



Holly, Shaneka & Kiarra

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If you're a Thrivent member, you have the opportunity to make your choice for *New Beginnings* do even more. Through the Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program, eligible members can direct a portion of Thrivent's charitable funds to *New Beginnings*.

This past August *New Beginnings* received **\$2,201** through **Thrivent Choice** - 2,201 choices for *New Beginnings*. 2,201 choices to support our mothers and their children. 2,201 choices to transform lives today – and eternities in the future.

Are you a Thrivent member? Find out how you can direct Choice Dollars® to support *New Beginnings* at: thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

And from the moms, staff and volunteers: **THANK YOU** for choosing *New Beginnings*! ♦

"THANK YOU" for your ministry to expectant mamas!! The women's group at Light of the World Lutheran church in Fairbanks, Alaska is thrilled to help support your work with funds we raised this summer with a rummage sale we held on a HOT day in July! Our church congregation donated treasures for the sale, and the Interior Alaska community was thrilled to support your wonderful 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 \$ _____

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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.

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