

NOVEMBER 2017

A quarterly publication on the ministry of *New Beginnings* –
A Home for Mothers located in Milwaukee, WI

Growing Branches



A Transformation in Christ

by Brianne Hansen, Executive Director

New Beginnings recently finished the boutique design project, and we are thrilled that it is finished! When I suggested that we transform our dingy basement into a beautiful, welcoming space, I failed to consider two things. The first is how difficult and time-consuming it would be, and the second is how much patience I would need to see the project through to completion.

Can you picture me in a paint suit over my business casual clothes, with a paint sprayer in hand and a paint mask and goggles strapped around my face? The first step in the boutique design project was to paint the ceiling black, which involved using a paint sprayer. As a go-getter, I figured I could do it myself, but I was very wrong! In about two minutes, paint splattered everywhere, and I seemed to be doing more harm than good. Ultimately, we had to hire a paint expert to fix my mistakes. The design project was long, and sometimes tedious, but with the help of volunteers we completed the project. The result was a beautiful, transformed space.

The boutique design project reminds me of how we often approach trials and tribulations in our life; sometimes we try to accomplish everything on our own without patience. God makes it clear that not everything happens overnight when he says, "*But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for*

it patiently" (Romans 8:25). At other times, we turn to worldly solutions, rather than focusing our eyes on Christ. Pastor Bob Fleischmann often says, "Our problems are not horizontal problems between you and me, but instead they are vertical problems between you and God." I think this is a great way of illustrating what God is saying in Acts 4:12: "*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*"

At *New Beginnings*, mothers experience a process of transformation as they learn to filter the challenges of life through faith in Christ who gives them their eternity. Seeing this transformation happen is nothing short of amazing, and the reason why *New Beginnings* exists. One mother, Letisha, speaks about her transformation in the article she wrote for this issue. She has begun to put God first and has realized the importance of seeking him! With prayer and patience, we are so blessed to see mothers transform through Christ at *New Beginnings*. Please continue to pray that the mothers and children here may be brought close to God through the blood of Christ. ♦

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought nearby the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)



Putting God First

by Letisha

Hi! My name is Letisha and I am a resident at *New Beginnings*. I have to say that *New Beginnings* has really helped me to change my life. Although I'm not a first-time mother, my children are 15 years apart which left me in a position of really starting over. And let me tell you: **A LOT** has changed since I raised my daughter, like laying babies on their backs instead of their stomachs, not giving babies water, and because I had a boy rather than a girl this time, I have to be very mindful of the way I wipe him since he was circumcised. Obviously he was sore so it took a little longer to change him than it did with my daughter. Laughing out loud, it's not fun to get urinated on at 5 a.m. but that's the type of thing you go through when raising kids.

New Beginnings helped me to develop those skills that I am taking with me through this journey of raising my beautiful little person. One way they help is by allowing me to live in a wonderful, safe, Christian-based environment in a home setting with enough room to allow me to be the mother I was 15 years ago, but

better, because I'm learning to put God first. Second, *New Beginnings* teaches me to brush up on some of my domestic skills. Every month, we have a themed pot-luck that we all bring a homemade dish to. We also have an assigned monthly chore and every Saturday, and our apartments are checked by staff. Every week, we have one-on-one Bible Studies and Goal Meetings. I thank God for *New Beginnings* for giving me the room to grow as a mother, a person, and someday, by God's grace, an educated woman since we do have the option of going to school or working on a career path. That will allow me to live depending on myself and being accountable for the choices I make which works out better when I put God first.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God loved us first. I couldn't imagine giving my Son up as a sacrifice, but God did and with *New Beginnings'* help, I will keep seeking him. ♦

Needs List:

- Gifts for babies' birthdays
 - Toilet Tissue
- Gift Cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon)

Complete list: homeformothers.com

Mail large packages to the home address:
9215 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53226

Additional ways to give material donations:
Target Baby Registry • Amazon Wish List



Thank you to everyone who attended our Ice Cream Social this year! We had a wonderful time. Save the date for next year!
Saturday, August 18, 2018 | 1:30pm-4:30pm



Pictured: Mothers, children, and New Beginnings' staff and board members

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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My Favorite Bible Story

One of our resident supervisors, Elyse, led a devotion recently in which she asked the mothers what their favorite Bible stories are. Everyone enjoyed talking about different parts of the Bible that stand out to them, as well as sharing their faith with others in the house. Here are two of the mothers' answers:

Robyn

The Men in the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)

The reason that the three men and the fiery furnace is my favorite story is because the courage the three men had to stand up for what they loved and believed in was admirable to me. In my life, I've had to let my courage shine through when it came to the birth of my son. Everyone wanted me to either abort him or place my son for adoption. I had to deal with a lot of hate for choosing to go against what others wanted, but I did though. I didn't get thrown into a pit of fire, but I still had consequences to my choice. But just like how God guided the men through the furnace, God is guiding me to be the best mother to my son despite what everyone else believed.

Shaneka

The Crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27)

The crucifixion of Jesus is one of my favorite Bible stories, because it allows me to read about how brave Jesus was. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and I know I wouldn't have been able to do that – die for everyone's sins. I also feel that at times I relate to the disciples who were sleeping when they should have been praying. This reminds me to stop sleeping (pay attention) and pray for my life, my child's life, and just pray more in general. Jesus is our rock that we can lean on, and I am thankful for him.

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) #* _____

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

☐ I want to support this ministry on a regular basis. Send me information on becoming a monthly donor. *Required

☐ Please contact me about remembering *New Beginnings* in my will or estate plan.

☐ I want to receive *Growing Branches* via **email**: _____

☐ I do not require an acknowledgment of this gift.

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

Thanks Aplenty!

Our "Change for Life" program now has themes for each giving season!

The upcoming season is called, "Thanks Aplenty." Please contact us to participate at 414-376-0595 or christinap@homeformothers.com



New Beginnings

A Ministry Sponsored by Christian Life Resources

A Home for Mothers

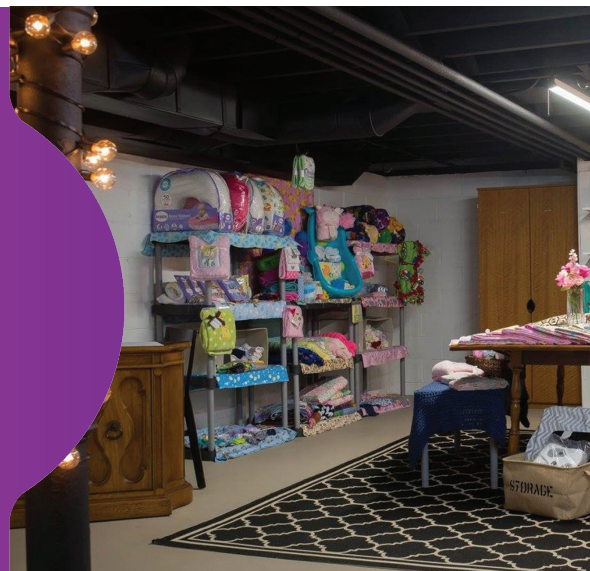
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Boutique Design Project

We are so excited that the boutique design project is finished! The *New Beginnings* Boutique Program is designed to nurture transformation. We remodeled our basement into a boutique store where mothers can spend points on baby swings, toys, clothing, and many other items. Mothers earn points by taking extra classes, participating in volunteer work, helping a fellow mother, and more. Our goal was to create a beautiful space that functions much like a store so that the mothers feel a sense of accomplishment each time they "purchase" items for themselves and their child. Ultimately, the addition of this incentive program has taught responsibility, decreased dependency, and fostered positive team building.



INSIDE: A Transformation in Christ | Putting God First | My Favorite Bible Story