



New Beginnings' Mission Statement

To provide a safe, secure residence for pregnant women and their babies while fostering self-esteem, educational growth and skills of living, parenting and decision making based upon Christian values.

Mother's Day 2010

Dear Friend of New Beginnings:

Mother's Day is a special day. At New Beginnings we work especially hard to honor the mothers and the mothers-to-be that are a part of our program. As the Program Coordinator, I feel privileged to work here and be a part of each woman's life. I will never forget any of the mothers or babies that I have known through New Beginnings. None of our residents ask or dream that they will become a part of our program, but once they do, we open our hearts and arms to do everything we can to support them in their journey of becoming parents.



Through this letter each year, we attempt to exchange stories or various viewpoints about New Beginnings. This year, we thought it would be nice to share a volunteer's perspective. Charity has taken on many roles including babysitter, tutor, and mentor. The following is a story from Charity:

"I'll never forget the first night I met one of the young mothers and was handed a newborn to care for - he was so tiny! The RA told me and the other babysitter that unfortunately, the other sitter cancelled and it would just be the two of us. As I looked at the baby sleeping in my arms, I thought "so what?" Then the other two mothers with their babies entered the living room. 'Oh, these two are mobile!' It was an adventurous night and the first of many opportunities that I've been fortunate enough to be a part of because of New Beginnings. Over the course of many months, I was able to see the babies grow and develop. I witnessed them bond with their mothers and also heard the moms talk about stressors of being teenage mothers, school and future goals.

As a volunteer for New Beginnings, I've also had the opportunity to provide programming to the residents on team building, employment, and other life skills. I tutored two residents, which sometimes turned into much-needed gab sessions as they anxiously awaited the birth of their babies. I think one of the most personally rewarding roles that I have fulfilled as a volunteer is that of mentor. As mentor, I have been able to provide support and guidance to a resident. Over time we have really bonded. I've gotten to be a part of major milestones for her and to celebrate many of her baby's "firsts." There have been late night phone calls, occasions to problem-solve dilemmas, lots of time to just be silly, scrapbooking weekends, trips to the Science Museum and splash pad, and chances for us to learn new things together - things I probably wouldn't have pursued without a 'buddy'. From my viewpoint, New Beginnings doesn't just "provide a safe, secure residence for pregnant women and their babies..." they provide wonderfully rewarding opportunities for community members to give (and receive) by integrating their programmatic goals with real life experiences and connections that will model needed life skills to the women and children whose lives are touched by their program."

This year, Mother's Day is May 9th. As you remember your mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and mentors, please, in their honor or as a memorial, consider sending a donation to New Beginnings. Our prayer partners will pray for them and for your family in appreciation of your contribution. As in the past, we have also enclosed a bookmark as a special gift to you. Your support will allow us the ability to continue to provide a safe and secure home for our mothers and their babies. It will also assist us in being able to offer mentor-resident activities and everything else that New Beginnings does in order to see the residents become successful and independent individuals and parents. May you have a wonderful Mother's Day!



Sincerely, your friends at New Beginnings,

Keri Raiber
Program Coordinator