



Beyond  
NEW  
BEGINNINGS

# 2024 Annual Report

*Lifting Up Families Through Strong Community Support*

## A Message from the Executive Director

As Executive Director of Beyond New Beginnings, I am pleased to convey the significant growth our program has achieved over the past twelve months. The dedication and hard work of our team, coupled with the resilience of the families we serve and the support from our community, have culminated in a year filled with progress and accomplishments.

For detailed information regarding the families, I encourage you to read Program Director Jill Engeswick's column inside this report.

Here are some noteworthy developments within the organization:

- A dedicated supporter, Julie, contributed a \$10,000 matching grant to assist us in establishing a monthly sustainer program. Julie's generous donation was made in honor of her parents, and we extend our deepest gratitude for her support.
- We welcomed Samantha Roth as our Family Coach. "Sam" has been involved with the families at BNB since its inception in 2020, imparting financial literacy in her capacity as an educator

with the MN Extension Service. We are delighted that Sam has expanded her role to include Family Coaching activities.

- Beyond New Beginnings was honored with the Martin Luther King Award by the Chaska Human Rights Commission.
- We received the Award of Excellence for our partnership with the Carver County Community Development Agency.
- We collaborated with a talented filmmaker to produce a video that captures the Beyond New Beginnings experience from the perspective of the mothers. This project has provided valuable insights and has enabled us to enhance our services to better address the needs of the families.
- The WCA Foundation extended our multi-year \$30,000 grant for an additional year.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the generosity of individuals, civic groups, foundations, and corporations. The faith community of churches throughout the region continues to be incredibly supportive of the families, donating food and home goods, conducting

Continued on the next page



Molly Koivumaki  
Executive  
Director

## A Message from the Executive Director

Continued from the cover

service projects and providing financial support. We are immensely grateful for their commitment to our mission.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to empowering families and fostering their growth towards

independence. Together, we will continue to take strides towards a brighter future for all.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for supporting the transformative power of Beyond New Beginnings.

Warm regards,  
Molly Koivumaki, Executive Director

## From the Program Director

### Who We Serve

BNB supports single moms aged 18-30 with one to three children from low-income backgrounds. Moms either pursue education or employment while residing in BNB housing for one to two years. BNB provides resources, weekly life skills classes, and essential community connections. Each mom collaborates with a family coach to set objectives and develop strategies to achieve them. Program Alumni are welcome to return for continued support and to serve as role models for new moms entering the program.

### Successes:

- 3 moms earned high school diplomas
- Several moms enrolled in community college as first-generation students

- 2 moms achieved AA degrees
- 2 moms enrolled in college courses for professional careers in Law enforcement and Computer Aided Design
- Counseling on debt resolution and budgeting helped all the families gain control of their finances and make well thought out financial decisions
- Children exhibit increased self-esteem and improved school behavior due to stable housing
- Children needing specialized services were identified and additional support was offered
- Moms learned about the physical and economic benefits of nutrition, smart shopping and exercise for themselves and their children



Jill Engeswick  
Program Director

We plan special events to give families a chance to have fun and make great memories together.

### Here are some of the activities:

- BBQ picnic at Fireman's Park
- Pontoon Fishing trips (2)
- Nemo Play at Stages Theatre
- Night to Unite with Chaska Police and Fire
- Swimming lessons
- Minnesota Twins game
- Ferguson's Apple Orchard
- Holiday traditions:
  - Shop with a Hero
  - Chanhassen Rotary Club's Santa Breakfast
  - Cookie decorating







## Donor Profile – Chuck and Molly Officer

# Why we support Beyond New Beginnings

We were fortunate to be blessed with loving parents who taught us that, while incredibly challenging, being a good parent is one of the most impactful ways we make the world a better place. Every child deserves a parent who can teach them, love them, and provide for them. It takes a special person to be that as a single parent. None of us can do life “alone”; we are all called to love and help each other. We support BNB because they provide the help, tools and compassion required to change the lives of two generations, mother and child, making a better society for all of us. Together we can make a difference and make a better world. BNB proves that every day.

## Awards and Graduation Celebrations at BNB this year



▲ Bee's high school graduation was celebrated with a picnic at Fireman's Park.

◀ BNB received the Martin Luther King Human Rights Award from the Chaska Human Rights Commission.

# An Interview with Our Board Chair

## How did you decide to start the Beyond New Beginnings Program?

At a Rotary meeting in Chaska, Sue Schmidt, the lead teacher at New Beginnings High School for pregnant and parenting teens, expressed her gratitude for the Rotary's support. She ended her speech with a striking remark: "When I come back next time, I am going to tell you that I need a home for my girls." This comment prompted me to talk to Sue afterward. She described the challenges these young families face, including couch-hopping and housing insecurity. Hearing about a young mom living in a car with her child broke my heart and motivated me to take action. We can't have young families living in cars.

## What were the next steps?

Sue, Jill Engeswick, who had recently retired from teaching at New Beginnings High School, and I co-founded Beyond New Beginnings with the goal of providing stable housing for young mothers and their children. We engaged with various community members, including elected officials, church leaders, business owners, and social service providers, to discuss our initiative. Our efforts garnered attention, leading the Carver County Community Development Agency to offer us a building they had recently acquired for our program. The facility includes four 2-bedroom apartments and a large programming space, which perfectly suited our requirements. Reflecting on how seamlessly everything came together is truly remarkable.



Russ St. John  
Board Chair

## How has working on this program for the last five years impacted you personally?

Participating in programs like this significantly impacts those who serve. I have developed a heightened awareness of my neighbors' needs and a deeper understanding of the challenges they face, which has altered my perspective. This experience has encouraged me to be more patient and attentive when listening to others. Engaging in such service is indeed transformative.

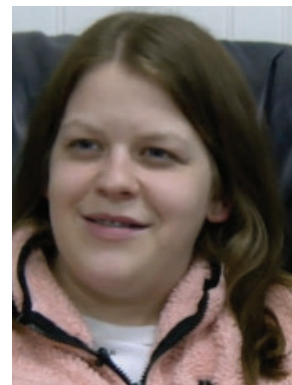
## Alumni Profile

# Morgan Buboltz

I just wanted a community. I just wanted amazing women around me, helping me raise my son. I wanted good role models for him, and to be surrounded by support and love. Knowing that everyone there is a young single mom made it easier because we were all going through the same struggles and could help each other out. Beyond New Beginnings became the family that I didn't have growing up. The Family Coach and mentors are really big on empowerment, and they push for success. They were there for me every step of the way.

It was scary to leave the program with all the resources and help, but they made sure to let me know that I was always welcome to come back for the Monday Night program. Taking that final step of leaving to start living on my own was scary at first but knowing that I could come to them for help made it easier.

I can say that I am finally happy with my life, I'm on the right track. I am in school, studying to become a Special Ed teacher. All my life I thought I had to "do it on my own" that I had to be independent and figure it out, but Beyond New Beginnings instilled in me that it's okay to ask for help, you don't have to do it on your own.



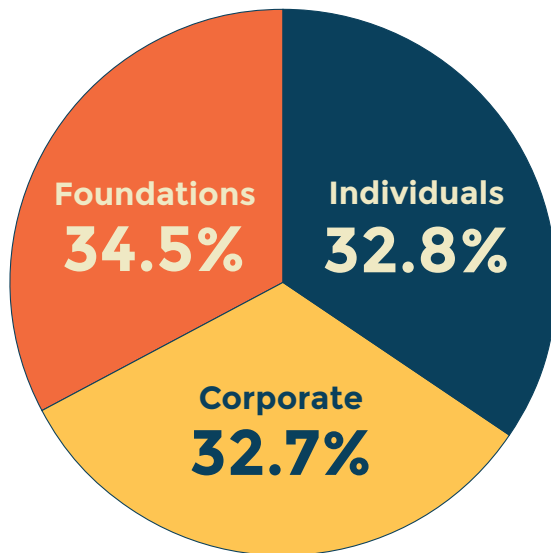
Morgan Buboltz



# Charitable Giving

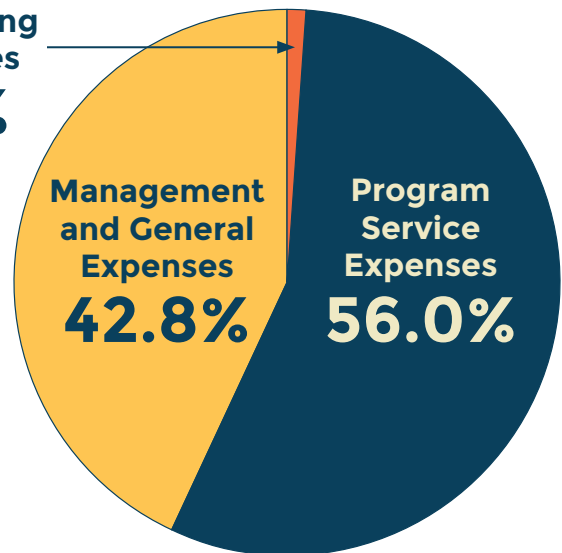
BNB continues to spread the word about our mission and ask for financial support from community service organizations, businesses and grants.

**2024 Donations \$159,485**



**2024 Expenses \$112,465**

Fundraising Expenses  
**1.2%**



*Achieving Goals Through Strong Community Support*

## Volunteer Profile - Carolyn Barinsky

### “It’s the little things.”

“It’s the little things.” That is my answer when people ask me what I enjoy most about volunteering at Beyond New Beginnings. Like seeing the “aha moment” in the eyes of a young mom when she suddenly comprehends a parenting skill that we have been working on. It’s the fun and the laughter and the learning that I enjoy most.

Hello, my name is Carolyn Barinsky and I teach parent education classes once a month at Beyond New Beginnings. As a licensed parent educator, I taught in Eastern Carver County schools for 25 years. In a full-circle phenomenon of sorts, some of the childcare volunteers at BNB were former students of mine.



Carolyn Barinsky

all come forward again. The emotional support the moms get from this program makes all the difference in their confidence as a parent.

Someone asked me what volunteering at BNB has given me. What it has given me is very personal, it has confirmed that my knowledge as a parent educator is still valuable, and that I still have a lot to give.

I truly believe if we are going to make a difference with children, we need to make a difference with their mothers.

As with all parents, the moms at BNB sometimes take a step backwards, but they

# Mission Statement

We provide loving foundations for young families to overcome housing instability and poverty.

# Board of Directors

Russell St. John - Board Chair  
Sue Schmidt - Vice-Chair  
Jill Engeswick - Secretary  
Eric Gentry - Treasurer  
Lynn Lewis - Director  
Christine Erickson - Director  
Anne Furlong - Director  
Suzanne Banning - Director  
Ezra Kenyanya - Advisor  
Mary Tingerthal - Advisor

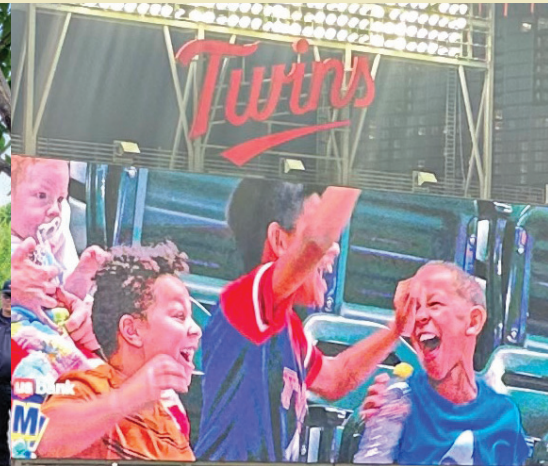
**DONATE**



We appreciate and need your continued financial support as we work to support more families and hire staff.

Design: Beth Harvey, Beth Harvey Design

## Some BNB kids activities this year



- ▲ The reaction of some BNB kids when they see themselves on the Jumbotron at the Twins game.
- ▲ The Chaska Fire Department shows some of the BNB kids the firetruck.

## With Gratitude

Thank you to all of the Beyond New Beginnings supporters! Corporate, Families, Foundations, Local Government, Nonprofits  
It is Only with Your Support That This is Possible.



beyondnewbeginnings2020@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 203, Chaska, MN 55318  
beyondnewbeginnings.org