



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

OF EMBRACING CONNECTIONS AND BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER



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Fostering: A Legacy of Love

As Beginnings Family Services celebrates 40 years of care, connection, and community, we are honoured to recognize the individuals who help along the way. Among them are Crystal and Dave, who have been a valued part of the Beginnings team. With compassion and commitment, they have fostered more than 40 children, offering each child a safe, loving start. Crystal and Dave's dedication represents the heart of what fostering is all about—selfless love, resilience, and the ability to create meaningful connections during some of life's most tender moments.

Their journey began decades ago, rooted in a calling to care for vulnerable children. Crystal's early experiences working in orphanages in Zambia and Ukraine shaped

her understanding of what fostering could truly be — a powerful expression of love, stability, and purpose. What began as a personal mission soon became a lifelong ministry, one that has involved not only Crystal and Dave but their three children as well. *"It's helped our children to see that family life isn't always about you—it's about being there for each other, even when it's hard. They've learned patience, selflessness, and how to be part of something bigger than themselves."*

From late-night feedings and countless appointments to supporting nervous new adoptive parents, Crystal and Dave's home has become a haven of learning, laughter, and love. *"Our children have grown up knowing how to care for little ones... When*

they have kids of their own, they'll be so well-prepared because they've seen it all."

Over the years, their dedication to fostering has created deep and lasting bonds — not only with the babies they've cared for but also with adoptive families, birth parents, and the entire Beginnings community. Some of the most poignant moments come during goodbyes, when love is passed from one family to another. When Crystal receives a call to take a baby into her home she describes feeling a connection, as if they already belong in her heart. When it's time for them to transition from their home into their adoptive family's care, Crystal reflects: *"I am sad, but then I remind myself—I'm sad for me, not for them. They are exactly where they're meant to be."*



A Message *from the* Executive Director

Amanda Baigent

Reflecting on 40 Years of Service: A Heartfelt Message to Our Cherished Community

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

As we embrace the beauty of fall and prepare for the colder months, it's also a time to reflect on the close of another year. This season also invites us to pause and recognize the culmination of our remarkable 40th anniversary. This year has been a time of reflection for Beginnings, as we celebrate four decades of unwavering commitment to providing compassionate care, empowering individuals, and supporting lasting connections through social services focused on pregnancy, parenting, and pathways to parenthood.

As we celebrate this milestone, we invite you to join us in recognizing the impact we've made together. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

In our work, we have been honored to walk alongside countless individuals as they navigate challenging decisions, embrace new beginnings, and prioritize the well-being of their children. Each unique story has enriched our shared experiences reflecting the grace and resilience of the human spirit. Your contributions, whether through your time, resources, or heartfelt prayers, have played an essential role in this mission, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Since 1985, we've had the privilege of supporting thousands of women and men seeking pregnancy counselling and parenting resources. We've facilitated over 564 adoptions and united more than 91 families through our embryo donation

program. Each of these milestones reflects the love and devotion that defines our community.

While much has changed over the past four decades, our unwavering commitment to serving vulnerable individuals remains a cornerstone of our services. We are more than just an adoption agency; we aim to shine a light on the hope and options available during this emotional and challenging time. We believe in the transformative power of informed decision-making and work tirelessly to ensure that everyone knows their options and has access to timely support.

Many who come to us face significant obstacles—financial strain, housing insecurity, emotional struggles, and trauma. In these critical moments, we strive to be a foundation of safety, trust, and connection. At Beginnings, we firmly believe that women and their partners must be at the centre of their own journeys, and we are continually exploring new ways to offer ongoing support, ensuring that families do not feel alone on their paths.

Looking Ahead: The Next Chapter

Our goal remains steadfast as we expand our programs and enhance outreach to ensure that all who seek support find the resources and help they need.

Vulnerable pregnant women and their partners deserve compassionate care, and we are committed to providing a safe space where they can explore their options without expectation, always treated with dignity and respect. We know from hospital staff and frontline workers that there can be many challenges in knowing what options are available, and we're dedicated to our

outreach efforts to support other service providers and ensure every individual has access to the guidance they need during these pivotal moments.

For those hoping to grow their families, we recognize how crucial it is to offer ongoing support, from information sessions to check-ins to group support, as families navigate both the waiting process and the journey that comes after welcoming a new life.

Spotlighting Our Dedicated Team

Every member of our team, from our versatile staff and skilled counsellors to our dedicated supporters, plays an essential role in our work. Together, ensuring that those we serve receive the compassionate care and support they need during emotional times. In this newsletter, we also spotlight the transformative power of foster family care, illustrating how these loving homes provide essential support and stability to infants and families in need, particularly during critical moments and planning. The commitment of our staff and foster families truly embodies the spirit of compassion and resilience that drives our work forward.

Join Us!

We invite you to be part of our Beginnings family. Whether you're a loved one, a friend, or a passionate supporter of our mission, we would love to hear from you! If you'd like to share your story, please reach out to us at info@beginnings.ca. Let's continue to inspire one another!

Wishing you a joyous and reflective fall season,

– Amanda

Fostering: A Legacy of Love Continued...

This ability to hold both joy and sadness with grace is part of what makes Crystal and Dave's role extraordinary. Their perspective is rooted in empathy and a sense of purpose — a belief that fostering isn't just about care in the moment, but about planting seeds for the future. Their impact has extended far beyond temporary care. They've celebrated birthdays, holidays, and milestones with families they once supported during the earliest days of parenthood. "I truly believe that each of us has a purpose. God has given us all different talents, and it's up to us to find them and use them... It's exciting to think that, in some small way, we've helped shape their futures by simply giving them love when they needed it most."

Foster parents like Crystal and Dave play a vital role in the adoption journey. They offer more than just a home; they provide comfort during transition and nurture in moments of uncertainty. Their work is often behind the scenes, yet it is foundational to everything we do at Beginnings. We are deeply grateful for each one of our foster families who, time and again, say "yes".

Our organization encompasses many facets—some are visible, while others operate quietly behind the scenes—yet all are dedicated to delivering the highest level of care for the families we serve.

At Beginnings, we are privileged to

work alongside an incredible network of dedicated foster families. These families open their homes and hearts, often on short notice to provide loving care for babies, create warm, welcoming spaces for adoptive families to bond, and offer a safe, non-judgmental environment for birth parents to spend meaningful time with their child.

The commitment of our foster families is truly around the clock. From late-night feedings and medical appointments to welcoming families into their homes and traveling to various engagements, they carry out their duties with unwavering love and dedication.

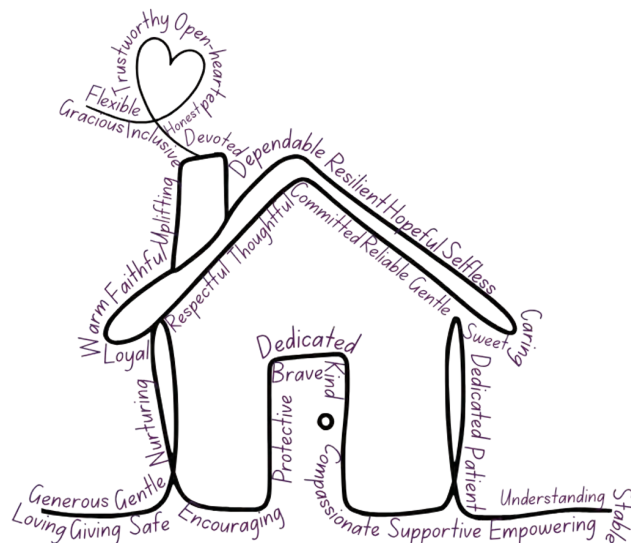
Welcome to Our New Foster Family



We live on a multigenerational dairy farm near Arthur. Paul manages the farm and fields, while Jennifer works part-time as a teacher. We're blessed with five incredible kids who love spending time outdoors — and especially enjoy snuggling the babies we've had the joy of caring for! Our home is centered around making every child feel unconditionally loved, deeply valued, and safe. We're honoured to walk alongside you and look forward to being part of your adoption journey.

-Jennifer & Paul Kabbes

40 Reasons We Love Beginnings Foster Families





Family Fun Day 2025

Our dedicated staff had a blast at this year's Annual Family Fun Day!

It was a joyful day filled with laughter, fun, and connection as we celebrated Beginnings families created through our Adoption and Embryo Donor/Recipient Program.

It was great to see so many smiling faces, and to catch up on family updates. From all of us at Beginnings, thank you for being part of our community—you're the heart of everything we do!



♥ BEGINNINGS STAFF



FAMILY FUN DAY '25 ♥



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"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Embracing Connections and Bringing Families Together

Beginnings Foster Program

Next month is **Foster Family Appreciation Month**, and we want to celebrate and shine a light on the vital role foster families play in the adoption journey. Many share how rewarding it is to be part of this process; often forming lifelong connections with the children and families they support.

Join the Beginnings Community: Become a Foster Parent

Beginnings is currently seeking caring families to join our expanding community of foster parents. If you're interested in learning more about fostering with our agency, we'd love to hear from you.

As a potential foster parent, the journey begins with the Beginnings application followed by a Homestudy assessment conducted by an approved private practitioner. This assessment involves meetings with a practitioner, gathering references, medical reports, police checks and participating in PRIDE training. As a Beginnings foster family, you'll also have access to a network of fellow foster parents who share their experiences, provide ongoing support, and participate in program updates. We believe in the strength of community and connection, and we're here to ensure you're not alone on this journey.

If you're passionate about making a significant difference in the lives of newborns during their crucial first weeks, we invite you to join us! You can help create a nurturing environment that fosters hope and support for families as they embark on this beautiful journey. We look forward to hearing from you!

Let's Keep in Touch!



Make sure to 'Like' **Beginnings Family Services** and **Beginnings Family Services Embryo Donation** on Facebook and to 'Follow' us on Instagram!

Interested in receiving this newsletter and communications email? Please send your email address to info@beginnings.ca so you never miss an update!

Embracing Connections and Bringing Families Together

Your Name & address (if different than on reverse)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

Yes, I can donate monthly:

☐ \$100/mo ☐ \$50/mo ☐ \$25/mo ☐ \$ _____/mo

Please supply your credit card or provide a void cheque.
A void cheque is preferred to reduce service fees.

I would like to make the following donation:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$ _____

Please complete for credit card payment:

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard Expiry _____ 3 Digit CVV Code _____

Card # _____

Interac e-transfer can be sent to bispayments@beginnings.ca

Please indicate "Donation" in the message box and include contact information for receipt.

☐ I would like more information on how to include Beginnings in my will.

Head Office: 1 Young Street, Suite 520, Hamilton, ON L8N 1T8
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Thank you!

To donate online, visit www.beginnings.ca and select DONATE TODAY